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## **THE MADRAS POLICE JOURNAL**

*The Service Journal of the Madras Police Force*

**(Issued under the authority of the Inspector-General of Police, Madras)**

This quarterly review contains the *best* and *most reliable* information on police matters. Nearly all its contents are written by serving Police officers.

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*Contents of the Madras Police Journal include :*

Notes on Law with judicial decisions of importance to policemen.

Statistics of Crime in Madras State.

Accounts of serious crime, describing in detail Police procedure and steps taken for detection.

Technical articles for policemen on Criminal Law, Crime Detection, M.O. Frauds, New Apparatus, Photography, Radio, etc.

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## NOTICE TO CONTRIBUTORS

Contributions should be typewritten with double spacing and should bear the name and address of the sender on the first page.

They should be addressed to the Editor, The Madras Police Journal, Police Training College, Vellore, North Arcot District.

Suitable articles on any subject of educative value or interest to the Police, or which promote co-operation between the Public and the Police, are acceptable.

Items not accepted for publication will not be returned.

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### NOTE

The views and opinions expressed in this Journal are solely those of the individual authors and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the views and opinions of the Editor.

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*Editor :*

G. V. Narayanan, M.A., I.P.S.

*Assistant Editors :*

T. S. G. K. Ruknuddin Ahmed

P. Seetharaman

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# POLICEMAN—A FRIEND OF THE PEOPLE

BY

SRI F. V. ARUL, B.A., I.P.

(*Deputy Inspector-General of Police, C.I.D., Madras*)

A policeman is essentially a citizen acting on behalf of fellow-citizens for the common good and is therefore a friend of the people. Unfortunately, there are narrow-minded people who hold confused views that there is a conflict of interests between a policeman and the public. Such people are obviously prejudiced for some reason or other for if a balanced view is taken of the relationship that should subsist between a policeman and the general public, it will be realised that there is an identity of interests. There is no such thing as a public interest and a police interest. The police interest is the public interest and anyone with jaundiced eyes who seeks to divide this interest is certainly doing a disservice to the community. It should therefore be clear that a policeman is motivated entirely by public interest which necessarily makes him a friend of the people.

2. The protection of life and property of the community and the maintenance of Law and Order are the prime functions of a policeman. His chief role is rather more to prevent the commission of offences than to detect them and it is in this way that the policeman affords protection to the people. The best device that has been adopted by the policeman to prevent the commission of offences is the organisation of beats in all public places. If the citizen is able to go about his work in lonely places or to sleep peacefully at home after a day's hard work, it is due to the policeman who covers his beat with unremitting toil. Those of you who have seen the film entitled "Ungal Nanban" (Your Friend) will appreciate from the opening scenes that the beat constable trods his weary way in the middle

of the night even though his own family members may be seriously sick at home. It will be proper for me to quote the following lines from the dedication to "The History of the Madras Police" which was published during the Centenary of the Madras Police last year to illustrate this aspect of service by policemen to the people :—

"Once more we see them in their sojournings now shivering with wet and cold, now scorched by a pitiless and burning sun ; uncomplaining, they endure stress and strain and at the last even wounds and death."

These lines bring to my mind very vividly the case of Constable Rathnam of the Madras City Police who while walking his beat some years ago came across a robber attempting to despoil a defenceless woman at the point of a knife. He immediately sprang to her defence but was fatally stabbed by his adversary. The Constable thus heroically gave his life for the safety of a woman. If this is how he functions can a policeman be considered in any light except that of a genuine friend of the people?

3. It is true that sometimes a policeman has to be very firm in upholding the law. He is after all carrying out his duty. He should not for this reason be considered an enemy of the people. The law has been enacted by representatives of the people for the good of the community and therefore even though certain aspects of it may not be quite agreeable to individuals it has got to be enforced for the good of the people as a whole. The policeman who enforces such laws is therefore not

inimical to the people. It is, of course, true that a policeman should adopt a friendly approach to the people when enforcing such laws. This lesson is being taught continuously to policemen and if an odd one among them defaults in this respect, the people should not jump to the conclusion that the police as a whole are unfriendly.

4. The role of a friend is perhaps fulfilled best when a policeman undertakes traffic duty. He guides both vehicles and pedestrians including frail persons and children on the roads so that order is maintained and no harm comes to them. At this moment I have in my mind's eye a cartoon of a policeman holding up a huge stream of vehicular traffic to allow a column of ducklings to cross an intersection from one side to the other. This typifies the task of a policeman as a friend of all weak and defenceless beings in a very characteristic manner.

5. A policeman is a friend of the people at all times, but this is most evident in times

of natural calamities like storms, cyclones, floods, famines and so on. The recent floods in Madras City and in the districts are a case in point. Thousands of huts were destroyed or badly damaged and tens of thousands of people were rendered homeless and hungry. Without the slightest consideration for personal safety or comfort policemen rallied to their cause, rescued many of them who had been marooned, saw to their accommodation in Police Stations and schools, distributed milk to their children and prepared food for large numbers of them. This was continued for several days entailing great strain and stress which they endured without any complaint. The poor people of Madras City and in the districts realised as never before that the policeman is a true and sincere friend.

6. In the growth of a Welfare State, social service plays a prominent part in the regeneration of the homeless, juvenile delinquents, fallen women and girls and slum dwellers. The policeman becomes a repository of the

Preparation of food packets by Special Armed Police for victims of recent floods.



Special Armed Police distributing food packets to those affected by the recent floods in Madras City.



confidence of many of these down-and-outs and several human dramas unfold before his eyes when some of these pitiable specimens of humanity express their sorrows. A matrimonial tangle ends in the attempt at suicide by the weaker of the two ; the policeman who is apprised of it helps to straighten it out. A run-away son returns home after committing theft and the parents solicit the help of a policeman to rehabilitate the young man. In such kindred matters, the policeman is the first social worker who does his little bit

to put things right. In all these ways the policeman befriends the people and seeks to serve them.

7. It is one of the distinguishing marks of a free country that men and women who obey the laws that they themselves have made through their elected representatives have nothing to fear from a policeman. In fact, there is something more than absence of fear in the relationship between a policeman and the people and that is friendliness. Indeed, a policeman in independent India is a friend of the people.

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# A SUBDIVISIONAL OFFICER'S LIFE AND WORK

TRANSCRIPTION OF A SPEECH BY K. R. SHENAI, B.A. (HONS.), I.P.S.

*Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Coimbatore, delivered at the Central Police Training College, Mount Abu, in October 1960).*

I am thankful to your Commandant and I am thankful to the Union and State Governments for evolving this scheme of getting delegates from all the States in India to this College—a scheme which has given me an opportunity to see the College, to meet the officers that run the College and to exchange ideas with you all. Although ours is a vast country, nearly a Continent by itself, and although there are hundreds of police officers spread over the length and breadth of this continent, thanks to certain fortuitous circumstances we have to do within the four corners of this hall, the oldest serving police officer right by my side on this dais as also the youngest serving police officer right before me.

2. The subject for my talk this morning is "A Sub Divisional Officer's life and work". You will notice that this is a general subject—a very general subject, and I may tell you that I have selected it on purpose as I have no doubt that in the twelve months that you have been here, you would have learnt from your directing staff and you would have learnt from your text books and your manuals all that is to be learnt in a Police Training Institution. It will be my endeavour to project into the field the knowledge that you have imbibed, to project into a subdivision what you have learnt or at least a good portion of what you have learnt during your stay at Mount Abu.

3. You are now on the threshold of your life as a Police Officer. In fact, you are on the threshold of your career. You will naturally be anxious about the coming months because as soon as you have finished the few

months of orientation at your State Police Training College, and a few more months of practical training—the order may vary in some States—months which will fly past, you will be in sole charge of a Police Sub Division and you will be in charge of great responsibilities, covering the maintenance of Law and Order, responsibilities relating to the prevention and detection of crime and an overall responsibility for the punctual and efficient administration of your Sub Division. I need hardly point out that you will be watched closely by your superiors and that you will be assessed for fitness for promotion according to the manner in which you shoulder your responsibilities and according to the manner in which you discharge them. In most States your headquarters will be in your own Sub Division and away from the District headquarters. In some States you may be located at the District headquarters itself. Location in your own Sub-Division is advantageous in that you quickly learn to stand on your own feet and get the necessary confidence to handle all kinds of situations confidence that will stand you in good stead in future years.

4. The plan for this talk is to dwell for a few minutes on your practical training and then to take you through a term in a Sub Division.

5. Adverting to your practical training, at the outset, you must provide yourself with a good conveyance as your training, and for that matter all your work as a Police Officer, is dependent on moving about quickly. May be, some of you are toying with the idea of getting a bride and a car. I must advise you

against such an acquisition as, while a car is a necessity, a bride at this stage of your career will be a luxury—may even be a hindrance. Some of you may be tempted with the small additional dearness allowance you get if you marry. Let me assure you that married life is much more expensive than the small difference in the allowance. As for a conveyance, if you cannot afford a new car which means over Rs. 10,000 these days, you may go in for a dependable used car, a neat and well kept one and not a cumbrous jalopy and this will not cost you more than Rs. 5000, or Rs. 6000. An alternative, in fact a very good alternative would be a motor cycle—I mean a 3.5. H.P. Enfield which costs round about Rs. 4,000.

6. During your practical training, you will work as a Constable, as a Head Constable, as a Sub-Inspector, and as a Circle Inspector. You will also work in the District Police Office and you will work in nearly every seat. What you have to remember is to do every bit of work yourself so you understand it fully. As an example, if you are out to serve a process and the person on whom it is to be served stays at the end of a dirty street, the Head Constable to whom you are attached for this piece of training, will undoubtedly suggest that you save yourself the inconvenience of going up the dirty street by standing at one end of it, while he walks up and serves the process. Such solicitous conduct is not, by any means, to stop you from learning your work as it is laid down in all Police Manuals that probationers should be attached for training only to first class men—it is only to save you the inconvenience. All the same, your training suffers. Again, if it is a case of checking B.Cs., the Head Constable or Sub-Inspector may ask you to stay outside a huddled colony. Here again, do the check personally. As, if you do not pick up your work during your training period, you will never pick it up and you will be like a limping dog all your service.

7. When you have left this institution and you are no longer under your Commandant's hawk's eyes you must realise that your turn

out and your demeanour is your own responsibility. When you set out in the morning, your uniform should be clean and well creased. Your shoes, socks and head gear should be of the regulation pattern and there should be no fancy wear. If you set a bad example, you cannot expect anything better from your subordinates.

8. At the end of your practical training, you will get a Sub Division. You will begin by signing the transfer of charge papers and by taking charge of the handing over notes. Go through these papers carefully and check the property and records that you are taking over. By no means, sign over a cup of tea as you may later notice shortages in property or records and if the records are confidential there will be trouble. Hence, there should be a proper taking over and then the cup of tea may follow. When you have taken charge of your Sub Division, great things are expected of you. Your department expects a vigorous administration as you are a young officer with a keen intellect and a tough physique—if you did not have a keen intellect, you could not have come into this institution through an All India competitive examination and if your physique was not tough, you would not pass out of this institution. The public expect a clean and honest administration because you are a young officer, free from all pernicious prejudices. Your subordinates expect a fair administration as you are in a enlightened officer, trained in a great institution and specially trained in man management.

9. Your Sub Division will comprise of 300 to 500 policemen. You must take care to see that you are not just one more police man in the Sub Division but that you are the leader of the 300 to 500 police men in your area. Your first week may be spent in drawing up or checking the programme of work for your Sub Division. In this week, you should also call on your superiors and brother officers in the area. When you call on your superiors, remember you should be correctly dressed and that whenever you are in doubt, you should

err on the right side. In the latter case your superior will only make an observation that you need not have bothered etc. while if you err on the wrong-side you will be received with a frown which will mean a bad beginning. To err on the right side is something to bear in mind throughout your service.

10. In this first week, you should also see that your quarters and your office are properly maintained. You may be fortunate to have a Government bungalow with a good garden. You may not be so fortunate and you may have only a rented place. Whatever it be, it is up to you to get the place to appear neat and tidy as unless you set up high standards, you cannot expect the Circle Offices, Police Stations and Out Posts in your Sub Division to be properly maintained. Furthermore, a brushing up helps to give the public as also your subordinates, an impression that you are an officer who has an eye for neatness and with it, invariably thoroughness.

11. Your programme of work will provide for inspections of stations, inspection of explosive shops, attendance at Sessions, etc. In between, you will be visiting your stations and out-posts periodically or by surprise. You will also have to conduct some oral enquiries from time to time. In regard to your inspections let them not degenerate into several pages of routine typed matter. Your inspections should contribute something towards the better policing of the station area. As for periodical visits, do not be under the impression that you have only to remark about crime work, i.e., list out the U.I. cases and the P.T. cases. Such listing out, helps no one. In U.I. cases, you should examine and see if every conceivable step has been taken. Modern scientific methods should be borne in mind. In P.T. cases, you should examine whether witnesses have fared well and whether there has been any delay in postings or any tossing from Court to Court. You should also check other items of routine work such as the maintenance of firearms, hand cuffs, etc. as otherwise, Station-House Officers neglect their responsi-

bilities in these matters. Your inspection of explosives' shops should be well before the last day of the term. Your attendance at Sessions should be properly spread over and your weekly report should not stop with merely noting the crime number and section of law which does not convey much. It should include an appreciation of the court proceedings such as, how your investigating officer fared in the box, how the Public Prosecutor conducted the case, etc.

12. In regard to oral enquiries, you must make certain that the charge has been properly framed and that the facts in evidence have been logically drawn up. A badly drafted charge will render all the subsequent work a total waste. A charge, including the word "suspicion", is patently bad and should never be pursued. Procedural details should be strictly complied with. Above all, you must maintain an attitude of complete impartiality as otherwise, the delinquent will have no confidence in you and you will be frequently troubled by requests for transfer of the enquiry, etc. This does not mean you should give the delinquent any false hopes as to the outcome of the enquiry. It only means that you must make it clear to a delinquent that the enquiry will be conducted fairly and squarely.

13. During inspections, make it a point to talk to the men. Never be carried away by any feeling that the men are all a poor lot and no amount of talking will do any good. If you talk to men properly and if you make them understand what you expect of them, results are bound to follow. Frequent talks, cautioning constables against escapes from custody, assaults on the police—matters which reflect adversely on police administration have considerable preventive value.

14. As a Sub Divisional Officer, you must hold Orderly Room periodically. Remember, Orderly Room is not for doling out only punishments. In an Orderly Room you hear every grievance. You dispose of applications for leave, advances from the Provident Fund, requests for transfer, etc. Discipline does not

mean harshness. If a man has done something wrong, you must go into it fully and the punishment should be commensurate with the delinquency. Your talk should always be straightforward and there should never be any tinge of sarcasm, e.g., if a Constable applies for leave to see his father who has been injured in an assault case, if conditions permit, you give the leave. If conditions do not permit, you refuse the leave but in no circumstances should you indulge in any sarcastic talk such as, "who asked your father to get involved in this assault case?" or "did I tell your father to get assaulted?" Such talk results in bitterness which will not be forgotten for months, perhaps for years.

15. While dealing with subordinates as also the general public, in this land of diverse creeds and communities, you will come across Hindus and Muslims and you will come across Christians, Parsees, Sikhs and so on. You yourself will belong to one of these communities. Fortunately, the Police, as a service, is largely free of all communal prejudices. It is up to you to see that it remains so. Remember that there will always be a suspicion of communal favouritism. Your disposals should not only be scrupulously fair but should also appear so.

16. A word about temper. Many a person loses his temper. This does not make for a good police officer ; for if you lose your temper, you lose control over the situation. It may be necessary to be severe, but severity should be controlled severity.

17. In the matter of transfers, you will have in your Sub Division, easy Stations and difficult Town Stations or Stations which man Sub Jail Guards. These are considered difficult Stations as Town Stations bring in no Travelling Allowance and guard duty entails long hours of duty. Rural Stations are considered easy Stations as the onerous Sub Jail Guard duty is not there and some Travelling Allowance is available. It will be good to lay down a principle that when a man has done three years in an easy Station, he should go to a

difficult Station and *vice versa* and transfers should usually be at the end of the academic year, so there is not much dislocation in children's education.

18. Now and again you will find a subordinate in hospital. Needless to say that when a superior is ill, few miss seeing him and enquiring about his health even to the point of disturbing him. A visit to a subordinate in a hospital and a few enquiries as to whether he is receiving his leave, salary, etc., go a long way in convincing your subordinates that you really have their welfare at heart.

19. Advertising to welfare, you must be having by now some idea of the various welfare schemes organised for police families. What I wish to impress on you is that you must take an active interest in the implementation of these schemes and not consider them as your S.P.'s or the Welfare Officer's pigeon.

20. I will next refer to your routine work. The first item in routine work is, the disposal of your day-to-day tapal or dak as it is known in these parts of the country. A good time to dispose this off would be the early hours of the morning when you are free from telephone and personal calls. You will notice that papers move much faster if they are dealt with early in the morning. In any case, whatever the time of the day, you must clear your work from day to day as otherwise as referred to by an Inspector-General of my home State, the accumulation will be as bad as physical constipation. Next to routine tapal work, are the reports you put up on enquiries and similar matters. As an Assistant Superintendent of Police your reports are generally original work and you will be assessed on these. You must revise your reports and while revising them, you must place yourself in the position of the addressee, by which I mean that you must make certain that the addressee gets a clear and cogent account. This pre-supposes your giving adequate information about times, places, distances, direction, etc., e.g., while you may know that X, a hamlet of Y, is two miles south of Y, the reader who

may be the Superintendent of Police, Deputy Inspector-General of Police or the Inspector-General of Police may not be aware of this detail which may be very material for an appreciation of the report. Hence your reports should be clear, otherwise, you are likely to be put down as an officer whose reports lack clarity. On the other hand, if your reports are good, you will soon get to be known as a good penman and may be, some day this will earn you a posting as an Assistant Inspector-General of Police. As for petitions, you would do well to adhere to the standard pattern of outlining the allegations, relating the nature of enquiry conducted, giving the name of the person who conducted the enquiry, the place and date and finally the conclusion. If your reports end without a conclusion, you will again be known as an officer whose reports are inconclusive.

21. If there is a decent Club at your headquarters, you will do well to become a member. You must conduct yourself as becoming of your position and while you may play tennis or bridge, it is best you keep out of games like Poker and Rummy which are usually played for stakes by second-rate members. Conversation in the club should be guarded. You should be able to attract news and views, without giving away any departmental confidence or secrets. Many a person passes on a secret, either to show off his own importance or in the hope of currying some favour with the person to whom the secret is passed. Such passing of a secret is usually preceded by a request not to mention it to any one. You may take it from me that the person you are giving the secret will have little use for it unless he can mention it to some one, even if it be his own wife. And so, the secret spreads.

22. Most human beings have a tendency to grumble. This should be severely checked as it is most unbecoming of a member of a disciplined force, e.g., you go to your Club after escorting a V.I.P. during a 2 or 3 day tour of the Sub Division. You are greeted by friends by something like "must have had a

difficult time escorting the V.I.P." You at once give vent to your feelings by saying, "Yes, very difficult time swallowing dust all the way". Sometimes, you go even further and add, "Don't know why these V.I.P.s come so often." You little realise that this is nothing short of disloyalty. Nor do you realise that your utterances seemingly harmless utterances, utterances practically wrested out of you, will be passed on and used to show you up in an unfavourable light. If you have any difficulties about pressure of work, etc., the place to air them is before your immediate superior and never anywhere else. This also applies to talking or writing ill of any superiors, members of Government or even one's own predecessor or successor-in-office. These are not among a gentleman's qualities, much less among a police officer's qualities.

23. As a Sub Divisional Officer, you are likely to be invited to preside over small functions or to take the salute at school parades, etc. Remember that when a police officer is invited to a function, the public expect three things from him. They expect a police officer to be punctual, punctual to the dot. They expect a police officer to be properly dressed and last but not least, they expect a police officer to be brief in his talk. If the occasion is a formal one your talk should be limited to a few words. If a speech is expected from you, you must prepare for it in advance. You shall not stand up on a dais and search for thoughts or search for words. You must ascertain the background of the institution in advance, note down a few points, speak relevantly and sit down well before the audience gets bored.

24. You should know that you are invited to a function not because you are Mehta or Vaidyanathan, but because you are the Sub-Divisional Officer. You should, therefore, uphold the dignity of your office and you should uphold the dignity of your service.

25. You must know that as a man in uniform and as an officer all eyes are focussed on you. You will, therefore, not be seen in public in any awkward postures such as stand-

ing on one leg or resting a leg against a wall, stretching by raising the hands over the head, chewing pan in uniform, slouching in a chair and so on.

26. You should also avoid mannerisms. A mannerism may be in action or a mannerism may be in speech. As examples some officers have an unseemly habit of adjusting their tie knot every two minutes. In speech, many get into the habit of beginning every sentence by a hackneyed phrase like "As a matter of fact," "By and large", "You know", etc. Such mannerisms make you the object of ridicule and I am certain none of you wish for such distinction.

27. While driving your car, your speed should be moderate and you should see things all round. You should also be extremely considerate and courteous to the public, e.g., if you see an old woman crossing the road, do not jam your brakes at the last moment and make her run for her life. Slow down in advance and stop so the public see that you have deliberately stopped to let the old woman pass. A little consideration like this will immediately evoke the comment that the young A.S.P. is a considerate officer. From this, will follow further comment like the young A.S.P. is reported to be a fine and efficient officer and so on, the ball will roll. On the other hand, if you have hooted and forced the old woman to run, the comment will be the A.S.P. seems to be a rash fellow. This in its turn will bring further adverse comment like the A.S.P. uses abusive language. The A.S.P. seems to think too much of himself and so on. Thus from small acts much good or evil can come.

28. In regard to social obligations, you are likely to be invited for lunch, dinner, tea, etc. at different places. Provided the invitations are from men of good repute and men free of politics or factions, you may certainly accept them. But remember that the courtesy has to be returned sometime and to this end, you will do well to get up a small party, perhaps when your Superintendent of Police or the

Collector or the Deputy Inspector-General visits your area. Never be under the impression that it is presumptuous for an A.S.P. to invite his superiors for tea or dinner. So long as the superior is satisfied that you will not take any liberties with him on this account, no superior will decline the invitation. On the other hand, they would like to have this opportunity for assessing your social poise.

29. You have great responsibilities in the matter of grave crime. I will not enter into the details regarding the prevention of crime as I am to be followed by an officer with richer experience who will talk to you on this subject. All I would like to point out is, that you must be prompt in visiting the scene of occurrence and that you must be sympathetic in hearing the complainant and the witnesses, e.g., in many a grave house-breaking, you will see palpable negligence, such as the complainant forgetting to bolt the door or leaving the steel almyrah keys right on top of the almyrah and similar open invitations to burglars. It would be the height of indiscretion to refer to such negligence while talking to the complainant. As you have to send up a grave crime report, you would do well to jot down notes at the spot itself and not rely on your memory on return to headquarters, because you will find you have forgotten some important points. When property is recovered, it is advisable to take it to the scene of occurrence and show it to the complainant in public. This helps to boost public confidence as when you came for the initial investigation, people all round would have come to know of the occurrence and if you come again with the property, these people are happy that their police have detected the case ; otherwise they are left only with the impression of the offence and not of its detection. Another point is your responsibility to see that the recovered property is returned to the complainant either immediately on recovery or at least after disposal of the case. Often times, this responsibility is forgotten as you are happy with the detection and conviction. Let me point out that detection and

conviction do not satisfy the complainant. Only the return of property satisfies him.

30. Another bad habit to be guarded against is, that of talking out of turn. As an example, your Superintendent of Police may come to investigate a grave crime. You meet him on the way to the scene of occurrence and give him the gist of the investigation. At the scene, your Superintendent of Police asks the complainant or a witness something which you have already informed him. You are apt to butt in, in the belief that your Superintendent of Police has forgotten what you told him earlier. Take it from me, that your Superintendent of Police is only trying to see if the complainant or the witness has prevaricated and not that he has forgotten what you told him. Thus, if you butt in, you will foul an opportunity for a test and you will leave a poor impression with the Superintendent of Police.

31. After a grave crime, you are likely to be visited by press reporters. Normally, no police officer may grant press interview. But it so happens that press reporters often times shoot off garbled versions which have their own adverse effects on police work. To avoid this, if press reporters want something from you, ask them to read out the report they propose sending and if you find that there is anything factually incorrect in it, correct that portion of the report. In any case no confidential information should be given out. Do not hanker for publicity by desiring your name to come out in print.

32. Apart from ordinary grave crime, you have great responsibilities in the matter of serial crime, i.e., a grave crime may be reported in each of your two or three circles or in the circles of your border subdivisions. Each Sub-Inspector or Inspector may be investigating his particular case. But when you compare notes of cases, you may notice that there are certain factors pointing to the offence being the work of a common agency. It is now up to you to co-ordinate the investigations, preferably by organising a special party. This will have the advantage of the clues in every case being

available to one investigating agency and this is bound to take the case further.

33. In regard to Law and Order work, there is nothing like ensuring that beats are served regularly, that disorder is noticed promptly, that rowdies are watched on sheets and put up u/s 107 Cr.P.C. or 110 Cr.P.C. as and when necessary, and that hurt and other cases are registered and investigated quickly as also prosecuted effectively in court and wherever possible, action sought u/s 106 Cr.P.C. If action on these lines is pursued the general state of Law and Order cannot but be satisfactory. As for bandobust for big festivals, visits of V.I.P.s and so on, you must prepare a scheme well in advance and the scheme should ensure that there is adequate strength for every eventuality and eventualities should be calmly thought out. You must also see that you do not ask for an excessive strength as this will result in difficulties to your superiors in making it available and for your colleagues in sparing it. Bandobust should invariably be rehearsed and loop-holes plugged. It is futile to take things for granted and then plead that you expected your Inspector or Sub-Inspector to discharge his duties properly. Remember you are an Assistant Superintendent of Police and that it is your business to superintend your subordinates' work.

34. As for traffic, you have heard the Governor's reference in his opening speech to the London policeman. I may assure you that this will not be the last that you hear of the London policeman. Wherever you go, there will be appreciative talk of the London policeman and an unfavourable comparison with your own policeman. I have known some officers retaliating by enquiring whether the local public are of the same standard as the London public. Whatever force there may be in this line of argument, it is not prudent for a young officer to think on such lines, as it is your duty to improve the policemen and this is not difficult if only you inculcate the right values in your men and this can be done by repeated talk and instruction.

35. In most States, the police have to enforce, prohibition and gazetted officers are expected to organise raids. Let your raid be an honest effort. Do not indulge in any make believe work such as saying that you organised a raid which makes it clear that you never went for a raid. A good raid pre-supposes sending out an informant, checking his information, obtaining a site plan, collecting an adequate force, briefing the force and finally leading the force. Such a planned raid cannot but produce good results.

36. When you have done 6 to 12 months in a Sub Division, you must spend some time on a retrospective assessment. You must see how far you have progressed towards the targets laid down. You must compare the state of Law and Order and crime with reference to corresponding earlier periods and you must adjust your future programme accordingly.

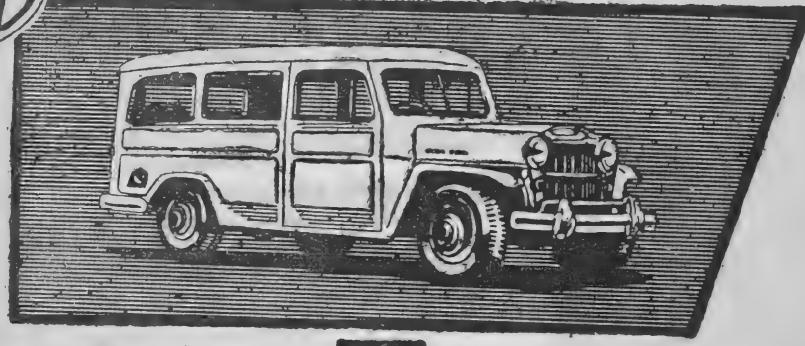
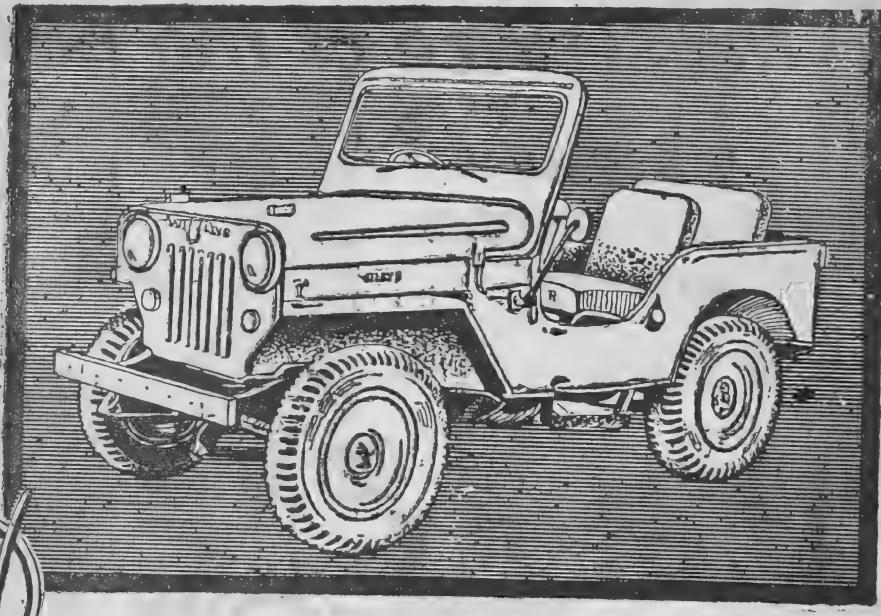
37. As a police officer, you can render immense service to society. You are a trained and disciplined officer and you are to go about with your eyes and ears open. As an instance, a police officer noticed a public drinking water tap against a blank wall. This tap was the

only source of drinking water for a group of families living across the road and women and children had perforce to cross the road morning and evening, to fetch their drinking and washing water. The road was a busy thoroughfare with buses and lorries speeding every few minutes. It had not struck anyone that the tap could as well be on the other side of the road when it would mean that the women and children would not have to cross the road. A police officer made this suggestion and got the tap shifted. That police officer can take credit for preventing at least one 304-A I.P.C. case if not more, as a fatal running over would have been only a question of time if the tap had continued to be at its original site. The result of this little piece of observation and initiative is that the group of families are indebted to the police officer.

38. As indicated at the beginning of this talk, my object has been to prepare you for the practical problems of your Sub Division and if some of the things I have told you this morning stand you in good stead in the days to come, I would consider this talk well rewarded.

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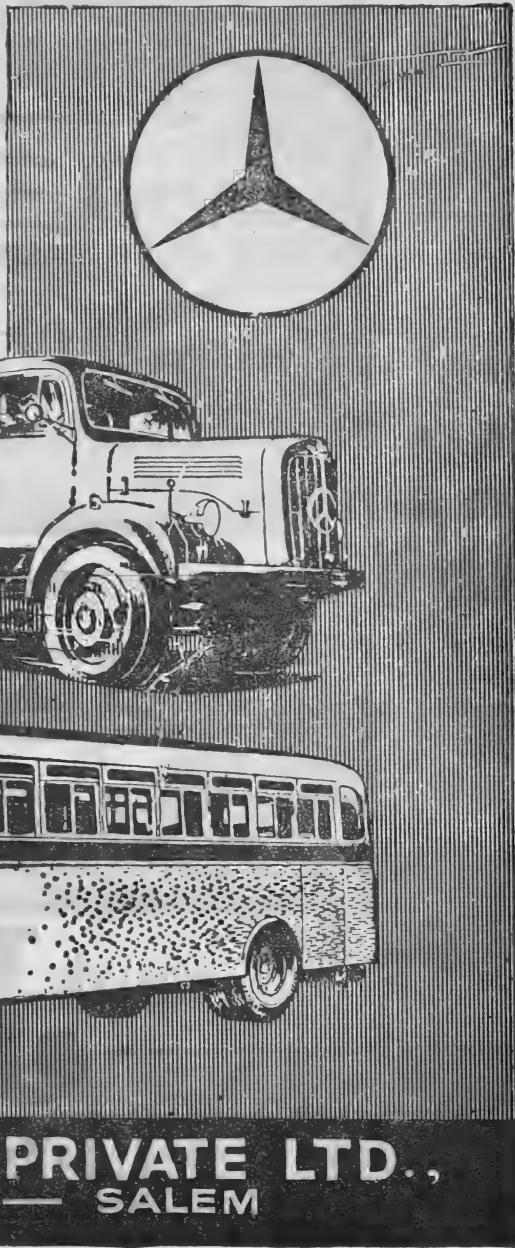
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# A POLICE DOG PROVES HIS WORTH IN AUSTRIA

BY

LT.-COL. ANTON HATTINGER,  
(Gendarmerie Headquarters, Vienna)

(Reprinted from the " International Criminal Police Review ", June-July, 1960, with grateful acknowledgment to the author and to the I.C.P. Review)

On 22nd June, 1959, at 11 o'clock in the morning, the body of Anna Haderer was discovered hidden under some bushes in a wood in the district of Scharding (Upper Austria). She had been missing since seven o'clock the previous morning. The head wounds indicated murder.

It was established that Anna Haderer had been killed on the twenty-first at about 7-45 a.m.—a Sunday morning. On this day, on her way to church, she would often visit various members of her family, so her absence on this Sunday in particular was not especially worrying. Only on the morning of the following day did her relations begin to look for her.

As a result of an unfortunate combination of circumstances, the Linz Police were only informed of the event some twenty-eight hours after the crime.

However, when they did arrive, it was in the person of Inspector Franz Kirchmayr, who was accompanied by a police dog by the name of "Jack", who was taken into the woods to the scene of the crime, arriving there at 5 o'clock in the afternoon. In spite of various obstacles (including two streams) and the very frequented nature of some of the paths, the dog led the investigators to a pile of wood on the outskirts of the forest. He went round and round the pile, though he found nothing and then continued on his way as far as the victim's home. (As was later learnt, the murderer also lived there).

The movements of the dog on the way there had greatly interested his handler, so Jack was taken back again to the wood-pile.

The dog returned again to the victim's house

and on arrival, sat down before the door and stared at the latch.

Obviously, there was some connection between the path and the dog had followed and the murder.

As Inspector Kirchmayr had noticed that Jack seemed to have smelt some small object which had not been found immediately on the scene of the crime, they returned to give the dog another chance to have a good "look" around.

The experiment was successful. Jack first of all found a woman's comb and then the weapon with which the crime had been committed—a stick of pine wood, about four feet long and two inches in diameter. When it was examined, bloodstains and a woman's hairs were found on it.

The tracker's work had come to a successful conclusion.

It merits some comment, we feel. First of all, the dog was taken to the scene of the crime about *thirty-three* hours after the murder, in heavy weather, with a west wind, over ground covered with trees and after some rain had fallen.

Secondly, the region had been walked over and searched by a number of people. Lastly, there was the strong smell of the woods themselves, which must have been a considerable handicap. Under such conditions, this feat was surely unique, even beside the many other successes to the credit of this dog and his handler, Inspector Franz Kirchmayr. It is hardly surprising that the local press was full of their praises after learning of the investigation, which, I should mention, led to the arrest of the murderer, a man by the name of Josef Beham.



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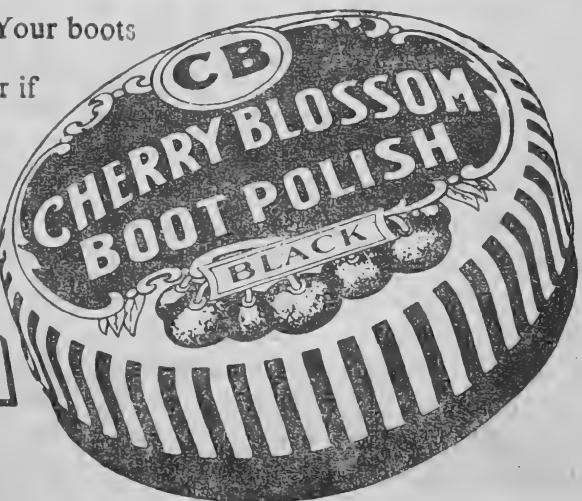
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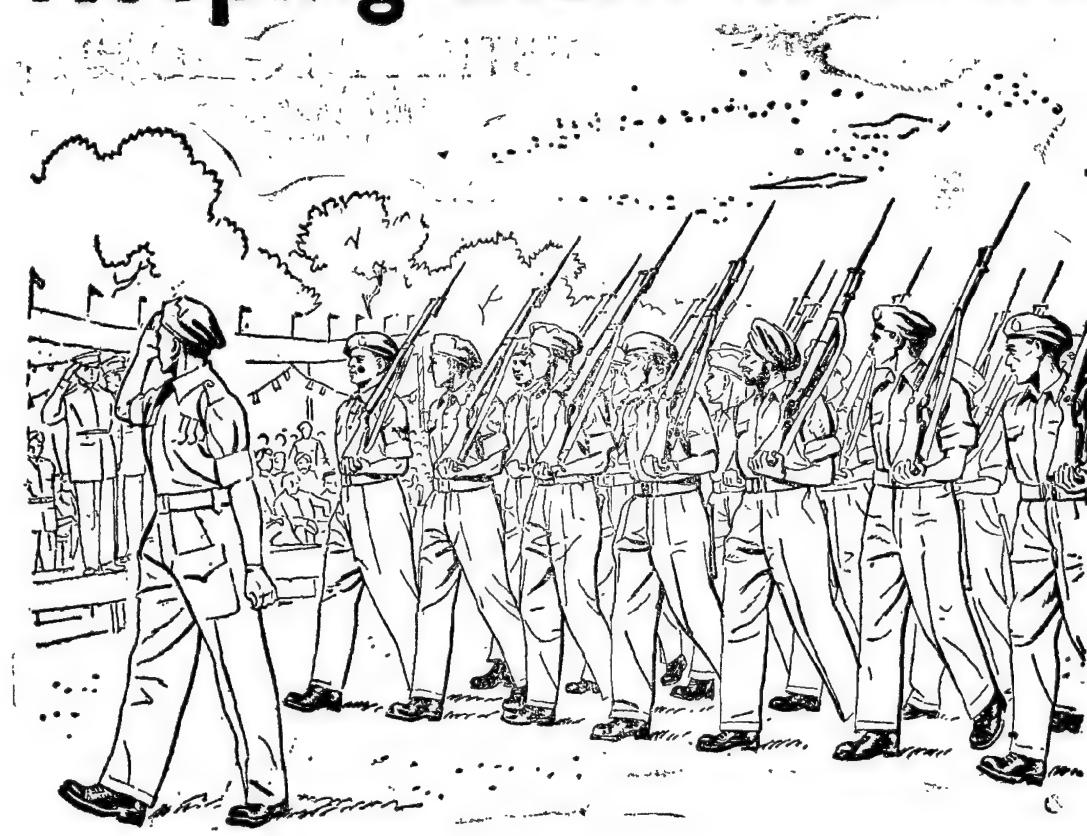
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# “TIRUNELVELI DISTRICT POLICE”

BY

SRI T. S. SIVANANTHAM, B.A.

(Assistant Commissioner of Police, Law and Order, Southern Range, Madras City)

Tirunelveli District is one of the major and important districts in the State. The police administration of the District was always considered very tough and heavy and usually senior officers were posted to the district as Superintendents of Police. When one enters the office room of the Superintendent of Police in the police office at Palayamkottai, one faces the portraits of many eminent senior Superintendents of Police adorning its walls. Four such officers whose portraits are found in the room later became Inspectors-General of Police of the then composite State of Madras. They are no less than Messrs. Hamilton, Sayers, Gasson and Underwood.

2. Before proceeding with the police of the District, a few interesting details about the District deserve mention. Tirunelveli was the southernmost District in the then composite Madras State, but now it has become the penultimate one in the south after the merger of Kanniakumari with the State, as a result of reorganisation. It lies sandwiched between Kanniakumari and Ramnad Districts with the Bay of Bengal to its east and the Western Ghats to its west. The holy river Tambaraparani, noted for its sanctity, runs through the District and feeds the Taluqs of Ambasamudram, Tirunelveli, Srivaikuntam and Tiruchendur. There are two dams constructed along the course of the river—the one at the 5th mile and the other at the 10th mile on the Papanasam Hills. Besides irrigation benefits, the storage of water on the dam is used for electricity as well. Mention must be made here about the Manimuthar Dam recently inaugurated, which is of use to several villages in the District for

irrigation purposes, especially to Nanguneri Taluk.

3. The District abounds in famous and big Hindu temples such as the ones at Tirunelveli, Tiruchendur, Sankarankoil and Alwarthirunagiri. The Churches at Tuticorin, Manapad and Sathangulam are mighty ones which bear eloquent testimony to the work of the architects of early days. Pottalpudur, Patemanagaram and Kadayanallur Mosques also deserve mention in this connection for their importance and grandeur.

4. Courtallam, the famous Spa of the South, is at a distance of 3 miles from Tenkasi and the season there during June to September attracts a lot of persons, high and low, big and small, from far and wide.

5. There is a busy Port at Tuticorin and regular Sea Traffic is going on between Tuticorin and Ceylon. Pearl fishing used to take place once in a decade in those days but now it is made an annual affair. A number of salt factories in and around Tuticorin, Arumuganeri and Kulasekarapatnam are functioning in the District.

6. There are 6 spinning and 2 weaving mills in the District, and the major textile mills at Tuticorin and Ambasamudram, which belong to the Harveys, are employing about 12,000 labourers. There is a Cement factory at Thalaiyuthu wherein 1,500 workers are working. In the Manjolai group of the Tea Estates, about 1,300 workers are employed and the labour problem in these industrial centres engages the close attention of the police.

7. The District is also noted for political activities. The Congress, the Communist party, the Dravida Kazhagam, the Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam, the Praja Socialist Party, the Socialist Party, the Rashtriya Swayam Sevak Sangh and the Tamilarasu Kazhagam function here. There are several labour Unions at Tuticorin, Tirunelveli, Koilpatti and Vikramasingapuram under the control of different political parties. A few words about the historic importance of the district deserve mention. Kattabomman, the well-known pioneer of the National Movement, was living in the 18th century at Panchalankurichi as a titular king and he was the first in the south to oppose the Britishers and wanted to achieve freedom. To mark his memory, there is a High School at Kayatar named after him. Bharathi, who hailed from Ettaiyapuram, is a poet of national importance and a big monument has been erected for him at Ettaiyapuram. Another of the great leaders of the Freedom Movement was the late lamented V. O. Chidambaram Pillai of Ottapidaram who opposed tooth and nail the British regime in every walk of life, and the present "V. O. Chidambaram College" at Titucorin reminds us of him and his sacrifices.

8. The extent of the District is about 4,337 square miles and its population is 2,445,967. The District consists of eight Revenue Taluqs—Tirunelveli, Srivaikuntam, Tiruchendur, Tenkasi, Ambasamudram, Sankarankoil, Nanguneri and Koilpatti. A portion of Shencottah Taluq in the erstwhile T. C. State has been annexed to Tenkasi Taluq after the reorganisation of the States. Prior to the merger of Prohibition with the police, there were only 4 subdivisions and 10 circles in the district. As per G.O. No. 2780, dated 6th October 1955 read with G.O. No. 2244, Home, dated 16th August 1955, a new subdivision at Srivaikuntam and two new circles at Valliyoor and Tiruchendur came into existence from 1st November 1955 ; two new Police Stations were formed at Megnana-puram and Nazareth ; and the 8 out-posts at Veeravanallur, Panagudy, Tirukarankudy, Moolaikaraipatti, Vijayanarayananam, Arumuga-

neri, Courtallam and Pettai were converted into Police Stations. A Central Crime Branch Circle was also formed in Tirunelveli. The strength of the police force in the District now is a Superintendent of Police, 5 Sub-Divisional Officers, a Ministerial Gazetted Personal Assistant to the Superintendent of Police, 15 Inspectors, 98 Sub-Inspectors, 224 Head Constables and 2,025 Police Constables (including the Armed Reserve). A Reserve Inspector, 7 Sergeants and 6 Jamadars are attached to the Armed Reserve and 3 Sergeants attend to traffic duties in Tirunelveli, Tuticorin and V. K. Puram.

9. Crime in the district was very heavy and a major portion of the property crime was attributed to Vaduvarpatti Koravars and local Maravars. Frequent inroads by the Koravars of Ramnad District were a peculiar feature of the District and several gang cases saw the incarceration of many potential Koravars. The inroads of Koravars in the District should be always watched for and checked effectively if crime in the District must be kept under control. The Marava problem is another which the police of the District has to tackle. It was a constant headache for the District Police. Prior to 1930, Mr. O. E. Windle, the then Superintendent of Police of Tirunelveli District attempted a reclamation of the Maravars but it was an infructuous effort. The repeal of the C.T. Act had its adverse effect on the potential Maravar criminals who gradually took to "illicit distillation" which was more paying to them than crimes. A senior I.C.S. officer who was in the District put it correctly when he said that "a Marava is skilful in design, undaunted in defeat and daring in execution." The activities of the criminals among the Maravars of Poolam, Marugal-kurichi, Manjankulam, Vellur, Kalvoi, Irumane-gulam, Kappulingampatti and Savalaperi, many of whom are dangerous and professional types, have always called for the closest watch from the local police. The degree of success with which this is done usually determines in proportion the degree of success of the preventive effort in Tirunelveli District.

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# THE DOCUMENT EXAMINER AND THE BALLISTICS EXPERT

BY

C. R. CUTHBERT

(*A former Superintendent of the Metropolitan Police Laboratory, London*)

(Published through kind courtesy of the Regional Information office, British Information Services,  
Office of the High Commissioner for the United Kingdom in India, Madras.)

The examination of documents to detect the work of the forger is a highly specialised branch of forensic science and calls for a comprehensive knowledge of handwriting analysis, typescript comparison, photography in all its branches, chemistry of inks, papers manufacturing and processing.

The days when so-called handwriting experts went into the witness-box and merely gave opinions are past. Today, comparison tables which show enlarged photographs of letters, groups of letters and sometimes words, are taken from a suspected document and placed alongside the same letters and groups of letters of known writing of the accused. The judge, counsel and jury are provided with photographic copies of these comparison tables.

## The clues in typescript

Nowadays, many documents which previously would have required a handwriting analysis are typed under the mistaken impression that they cannot be linked with the sender. Very few people have any idea of the wealth of information which may be gathered from the critical examination of a typewritten document and think that, unlike handwritten documents, nothing can be learned regarding the typist or the machine used for typewritten matter. In point of fact it is often possible with typescript to arrive at more definite conclusions than with handwriting.

In the early months of 1940 I carried out an unusual typescript examination. At this particular time Holland had not been invaded, and the Royal Navy was doing its best to prevent cargoes getting through to Germany. This was proving difficult, as neutral countries naturally wished for immunities from search of their ships, and it was arranged that if copy orders were supplied, neutral shipping would be allowed to go its way without hindrance. The Department of Economic Warfare soon discovered that Holland was greatly increasing certain of her imports from America. The enquiry I received was of such a nature that great speed was necessary to discover the reason for this sudden increase.

It was found that all the orders purporting to come from 130 different firms in Holland were typed on four typewriters only. Obviously the orders were for Germany, and it was discovered that they all emanated from a two-roomed office in The Hague which was run by a German firm who, by using accommodation addresses and various printed order forms, were attempting to break the blockade.

## False passports

Will forgery and anonymous letter writing are not the only types of case referred to the Document Examiner. False passports, receipts for alleged payments of goods, motor car "log" books, motor car road fund licences, railway tickets, betting slips, envelopes and

postage stamps are all submitted from time to time to the laboratory for expert opinion on one point or another.

Most of the documents submitted are suspected of having certain words or figures erased and other words substituted, and this is the usual problem to be solved, quite apart from the type of crime committed. To erase words, letters or figures, one of three methods is employed : (1) mechanical means such as the use of a knife or rubber ; (2) chemical action; and (3) obliteration by ink blots.

Mechanical erasure is usually discernible with a low-power microscope or a good hand lens, the texture and surface of the paper being roughened. Where erasure has taken place the sizing of the paper surface will be fractured and under the low-power microscope the paper surface will resemble fine hairs.

Removing writing by chemicals is another business altogether. If chemical erasure is suspected, the documents are examined under an ultra-violet lamp in a darkened room, where fluorescence will be seen on the part of the document which has been chemically treated.

#### **Infra-red photography**

A pencil-written document from which some words have been removed with an India rubber and other words substituted presents quite a problem, as low-power microscopy shows only where the rubbing-out occurred, and the document has therefore to be photographed, using infra-red rays.

Obliteration of writing by overwriting, blocking out with pencil marks or blots of ink, is sometimes resorted to, but in such cases obliterated matter is readily detectable by use of infra-red photography, since carbon completely absorbs infra-red light, neither reflecting or transmitting it. Consequently, infra-red photography of obliterated writing shows clearly the writing which has been covered.

It is possible sometimes to differentiate between the age of two ink writings, and this

has been known to be of great value. Many alleged old documents have been proved to be faked for no other reason than that the documents have been written with ink, the composition of which was unknown at the date when the document was supposed to have been written.

#### **THE BALLISTICS EXPERT**

The training of a forensic ballistic worker for crime detection work is a long process, for, unlike the ordinary gunsmith or the ballistic expert of a Government Armoury—who is mainly concerned with large weapons and high explosives—he needs to have a comprehensive knowledge of all small arms, he must be able to identify ammunition, he must know something of firearm wounds and, furthermore, he must be a good microscopist and photographer.

When a man has been killed by a shot from a firearm the pathologist may find the bullet in the victim's body. The bullet is removed and then wrapped in cotton wool and sent to the laboratory. A firearm may be found later and this also will be submitted to the laboratory for tests to discover if the bullet was fired from that particular weapon.

Sometimes a bullet is not recovered and all that is found at the scene of the shooting is a shell case.

#### **The essential markings**

To express an opinion as to whether a particular shell was ejected from a given weapon does not, as a rule, prove as difficult as bullet comparison, mainly because a shell case is never distorted like bullets so often are, but while they obviously bear no striations, they do bear marks of the breach block and firing pin of the pistol.

In the case of shootings with sporting guns and cartridges, ranges from point blank to 50 yds. or more can be assessed owing either to burning, singeing, tattoo powder marks, or to the spread of shot, which widens as the range increases.

The forensic science laboratories supply evidence to assist the court and not necessarily to help the prosecution.

#### An interesting case

An interesting case was that of John Darwood, the owner of a poultry farm at Little Warley, near Brentwood, Essex, England. As Christmas approached, poultry thieves became more active, and the farmer decided to take matters into his own hands and to stand guard each night until his Christmas birds had been sold. Armed with a double-barrelled sporting gun, he patrolled his farm and when midnight had passed without anything untoward occurring, he began to think seriously of ending the night's vigil when he heard a car coming slowly down the lane.

The car stopped near some chicken houses and Darwood crept silently forward, but when he was about 20 yds. from the car it was started up and driven away. The farmer came to the conclusion that the occupants of the car must have seen him. A little later, he heard another car approaching and, hiding behind a hedge, saw that it was the same car which had previously driven off. It stopped in almost the identical place where it had stopped before and the voices of the occupants speaking in whispers could be heard. By then, Darwood was convinced that the car contained chicken thieves and he discharged one barrel of his gun into the air as a warning that he was armed. He rushed towards the car.

#### A courting couple

At that moment, the door by the driving seat of the car was flung open and a man jumped out. He took one quick look at the approaching, threatening figure of the farmer and then rushed at him with his right arm upraised as if to strike him with some metal object he was holding. The farmer claimed that he discharged his second barrel in self-defence. A full charge of shot entered the man's abdomen and he died before medical aid could be summoned.

These details were supplied by Darwood

himself, for the only other person nearby was a woman in the car. She was so distracted by the rapid course of events that she was quite unable to give any coherent account of what had happened except to make it quite clear that she and the dead man were not poultry thieves, but a courting couple.

The police, when they arrived, took the body to the mortuary and then, with the object of testing Darwood's theory of self-defence, they submitted for laboratory examination the sporting gun and the dead man's clothing in order to ascertain the range at which the fatal shot had been fired.

Assessment of range was not difficult as, in the dead man's overcoat to the right of the midline and level with the navel, was a hole two inches in diameter. This jagged, irregular hole showed evidence of burning around the edges and, as there was no sign of spread of shot beyond the edges of the hole, clearly the gun had been discharged at point blank range.

As is the established laboratory technique, the clothing was put on to a display figure (as used in shop window display) and it was immediately seen that while the holes in the dead man's vest, shirt and trousers were in alignment, the one in the jacket was some three inches lower, while the hole in the overcoat, already described, was five-and-a-half inches lower than those in the shirt, vest and trousers. This confirmed Darwood's story. Had the deceased had his right arm held up as if to strike the farmer, his overcoat and jacket would have lifted.

#### Living model experiments

A series of experiments were carried out, using this time a living model with an arm length exactly the same as the dead man's, and it was found that in order to bring the holes into alignment the arm had to be raised 120° from the normal relaxed position. This is, of course, the angle which one would expect if the wearer were about to strike a blow downwards. The body of the dead man also showed signs of confirmation of this

theory, for the right hand firmly gripped in a cadaveric spasm and a large metal torch. This torch was not held in the normal manner but was gripped as if it were about to be used as a striking weapon.

A series of photographs was taken, showing each garment separately on the wax display figure. The camera and the model were in a fixed position throughout, so that when all the photographic negatives were placed together

in a printing frame the resultant print obtained showed all the garments as transparencies and the relative position of the holes in the various garments could be plainly seen.

It was thus made clear that Darwood had fired in self-defence as he had maintained. Surely no better example could be found to illustrate how impartial scientific evidence can be, for it quite obviously helped to secure Darwood's acquittal.

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# TRAFFIC JAMS AND HOW TO PREVENT THEM

BY

SRI P. J. MANUEL

(*Traffic Sergeant of Madurai City*)

In urban areas, when the smooth flow of traffic is disturbed by an 'obstruction', it results in traffic congestion. If traffic congestion is not relieved it develops into a traffic jam. If a traffic jam is not dealt with promptly it spreads and the traffic in the entire area is paralysed.

The ill effects of a traffic jam on the community are common knowledge and need no repetition. It is, however, worthwhile reminding that prevention is better than cure.

Those familiar with the subject know the fact that street traffic congestion originates mainly at intersections. Such 'obstructions' to free flow of traffic like vehicle breakdowns, vehicles involved in accidents, roads under repair, etc., are rare and only last for a short period. But the red light or the police stop signal at a road intersection, allowing cross traffic to flow through the intersection, is a permanent feature.

## Congestion

Congestion is merely an increase in the density of traffic caused by a slow down in the flow, due to one or more 'obstructions'.

## Traffic jam

To understand a traffic jam well, imagine two police controlled intersections, quarter mile apart and around a bend in the street. The two police constables are not in view of each other and work independently. The vehicles stopped by them could pile up one behind another for a quarter mile, before they are released. The space thus available for waiting vehicles is known as Reservoir space. If the density of traffic at any time is such as to make the line of waiting vehicles to overflow the available reservoir space, the two police constables will make each other ineffective and completely lose control over their respective intersections. The result is a traffic jam. Theoretically, what is required to deal with the problem is a common eye that could see both intersections and their approaches at the same time and direct the two helpless constables. Practical solutions with the limited resources available to us are discussed in detail later.

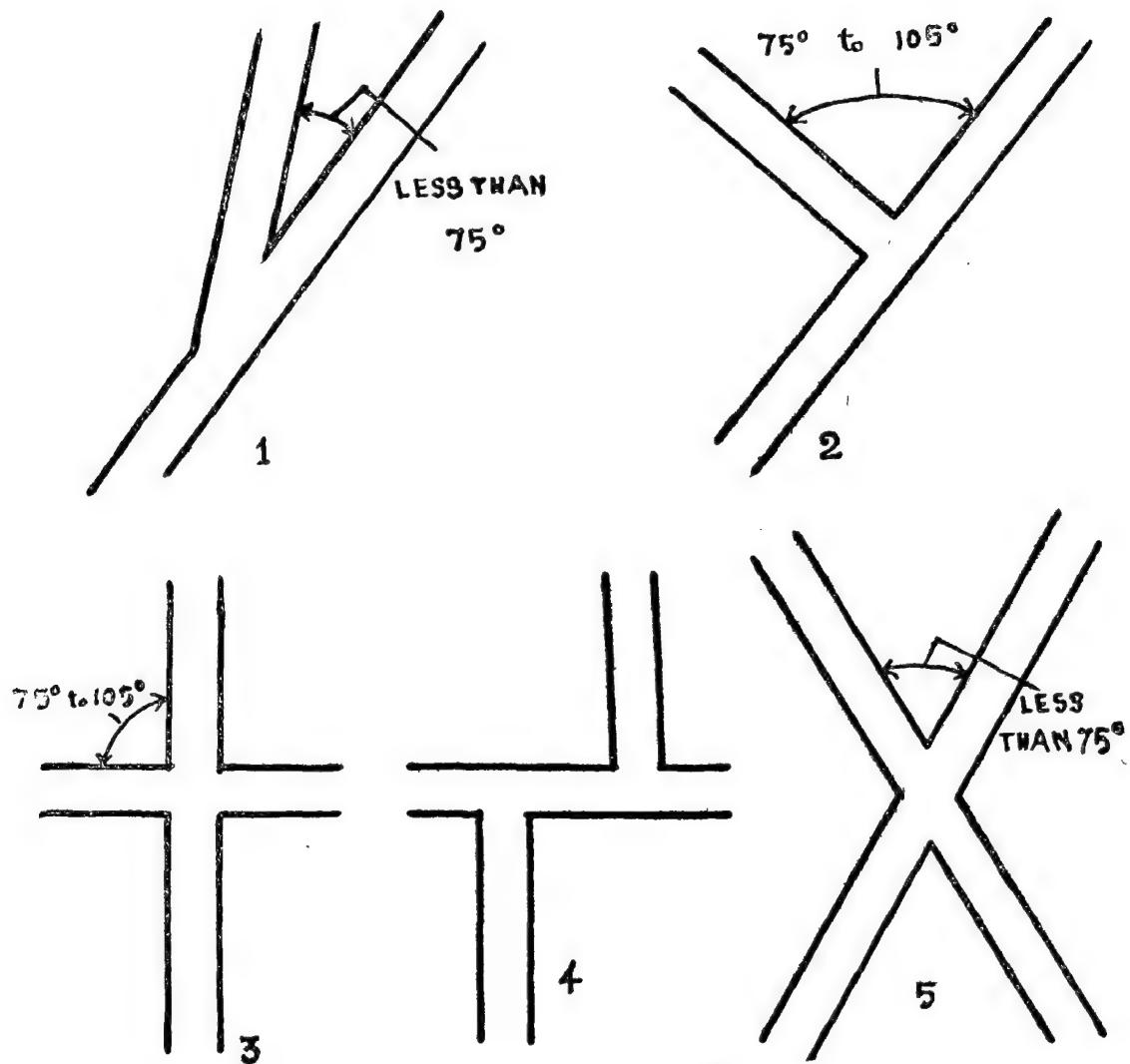
Since street traffic congestion originates mainly at intersections, a basic knowledge of the different types of intersections and some of the methods adopted for regulation of traffic at intersections is essential.

## The six basic types of intersections

Three-way intersections :—

- (1) 'Y' intersection.
- (2) 'T' intersection.

FIG. 1.



Four-way intersections :—

- (3) Simple or rightangled
- (4) Offset or Jog.
- (5) Oblique or skew.

Multi-way intersection :—

- (6) (with five or more legs)

(See Fig. 1)

### Traffic movements at a simple intersection

A study of traffic movements at a simple intersection will help to understand the methods of regulation of traffic at intersections in general. From Fig. 2 it will be seen that there are twelve possible movements of traffic, only four of which—the four left turns—do not directly oppose traffic in another path. If the twelve traffic streams are to be allowed to flow freely without conflict, four operating phases are necessary—allowing three streams on every approach road at a time. There are serious objections to this. Efficient control of traffic at intersections requires delay to waiting vehicles to be reduced to the absolute minimum. Usually a compromise is made and the twelve streams are allowed to pass through the intersection in two phases. The six streams on the North-South and then the six streams on the East-West. The two right turn movements are allowed to 'filter' through conflicting lanes of traffic. During a certain time of the day, right turn movements at some intersections may be particularly heavy. To cope with such a period, a third phase may be introduced temporarily. Also, if found necessary, a permanent third phase—a pedestrian phase—may be allowed when all vehicular traffic is stopped.

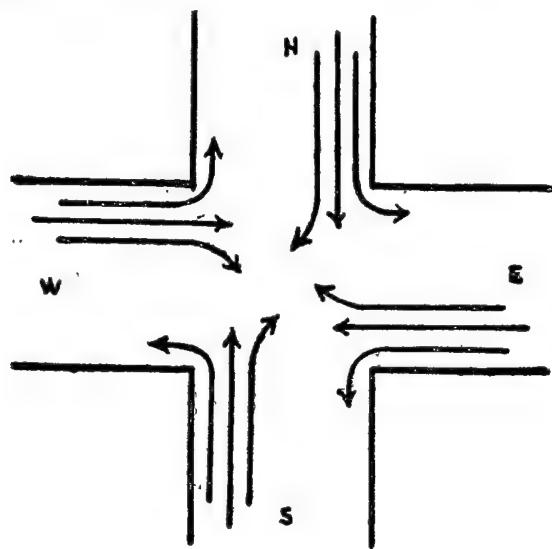


FIG. 2

### Different methods of control at intersections

The following methods of control at intersections are in vogue, the choice depending upon the dictates of the intensity of traffic.

- (1) The Highway Code.
- (2) Traffic Signs and Sign-boards.
- (3) Rotary movement islands.
- (4) Hand Signals by Police.
- (5) Automatic street traffic signals with fixed time cycles.
- (6) Vehicle-actuated automatic signals.
- (7) Helicopters and Radio cars.
- (8) Television and automatic signals.

(1) *The Highway Code* : This is a form of control by itself. The code lays down firmly that a vehicle approaching an intersection shall do so with caution, slow down and shall not enter the intersection until the driver becomes aware that he could do so without endangering the safety of persons thereon. The code also lays down that a vehicle entering an intersection shall yield right of way to all traffic approaching the intersection on his right hand side. These laws are sufficient to control the traffic at an intersection, when the volume of traffic is negligible.

(2) *Traffic signs and sign-boards* : When there is heavy flow of traffic on only one road at an intersection, say the North-South traffic while the East-West traffic is negligible, erection of such sign-boards like "Dead Slow. Major Road Ahead" or "Stop, Listen and Proceed" is all that is required to control the traffic. If at any time a different method of control is adopted, the sign-boards should be removed.

(3) *Traffic islands* : When the traffic on all the approach roads to an intersection are fairly heavy, traffic islands provide a happily impersonal solution and are hence widely used. Traffic islands could be formed in scores of different ways to suit the particular needs of an intersection and the peculiarities of traffic at that intersection. A general principle in forming traffic islands is to gradually

reduce the width of the approach road down to the width of a single lane of traffic and thus prevent over-taking at the intersection. The rule that governs movement is that the vehicle on the right always gets the right-of-way.

For a certain type of traffic a rotary movement island is an ideal solution. It saves man-power. It exercises control 24 hours a day. It serves first those that come first. Rain or shine, it works at its peak efficiency. Power failures leave it unaffected.

*For mixed (fast and slow) traffic conditions, however, an island is not the ideal solution. The single lane theory reduces traffic clearance rate at the intersection down to the speed of slow moving traffic. Even when only fast moving traffic is handled, a rotary movement island with its single lane capacity, sharp curves and longer route through the intersection makes the most sluggish form of control leading to abnormal delays at the intersection. When the volume of traffic at the intersection increases, the island which was a blessing to the traffic police, suddenly becomes a menace—a potential traffic jam creator. When the peak hour traffic begins to suffer by the presence of a traffic island, it is time to completely demolish the islands or trim them down to negligible proportions and look for other methods of control for the intersections.*

(4) **Hand signals by Police :** This is a logical solution to a over burdened traffic island. It is also a popular form of control and is used widely throughout the state. Much has been said for and against this form of control. The main drawback is that it is very costly. Others are that hand signals are not readily visible to all drivers, that traffic constables cannot work at their highest efficiency continuously, that they cannot see in all directions at once and that they tend to discriminate and wait for stragglers.

The advantages are that this form of control can be more efficient than an island when the traffic is heavy and more efficient than a fixed-time cycle automatic signal when the traffic is very light. In fact, the police control is

the most flexible and adjustable type of control for heavy intersections.

(5) **Fixed-time cycle automatic signals :** *Intelligent use of this type of control is far superior to any other type discussed so far. The only serious objection to this type of control is that as it works on a pre-set fixed-time cycle, during a lull in the traffic, it is liable to stop a vehicle when there is no cross-traffic to wait for. But the advantages far outweigh this one disadvantage. One great advantage is that this type of control could be connected 'in series' with adjoining intersections, so that a vehicle getting a green light at one intersection could continue to get green lights at successive intersections. This helps to plan traffic control for an entire area instead of isolated intersections and helps to synchronise traffic movement in a wide area.*

The signal equipment required for this type of control is now being manufactured in our own country and is in use in all the major cities. As this equipment will progressively replace other types of control at intersections in the future, a few details about this equipment will be of help to all those interested in the subject.

The equipment consists of signal heads (or lanterns) and controller. The signal heads consist of RED, AMBER and GREEN lights, in that order and light up in the sequence shown below :

- (1) RED meaning STOP.
- (2) RED and AMBER together meaning prepare to start as Green follows shortly.
- (3) GREEN meaning proceed.
- (4) AMBER alone meaning STOP as red follows shortly, unless you are too close to the intersection to stop safely.

The sequence is then repeated. The RED AMBER preceding green is known as initial interval and the Amber following Green is known as clearance interval. The signal heads

could be located in a variety of different ways. All the signal heads could be mounted on a single central pole or hung from above. Or they may be separated and fixed at the left corner of each approach road. Again, both may be used simultaneously making the lights on the central pole, the primary lights and the lights on the corner poles, the secondary lights. The central pole could be dispensed with altogether and the secondary lights of one road mounted on the pole for primary lights of the opposite road. If a separate pedestrian phase is allowed, two aspect (RED and GREEN only) lights may be fixed at the pedestrian crossings, with 'STOP' and 'MARCH' painted on them in the vernacular. In addition to all these lights, auxiliary lights showing a green arrow on a black background are available. These are used along with a red light to indicate that left-turns are permitted as a 'filtering' movement against the red light. This completes the range of signal heads.

The controller, a masterpiece of engineering skill is highly complicated but simple to operate. It could cater for 2 to 6 phases, each phase consisting of 3 intervals as shown below :—

- (1) Initial Interval (Red Amber) say 2 seconds.
- (2) Green Interval (Green) varying for every phase.
- (3) Clearance Interval (Amber) say 4 seconds.

In simple language the control box will start by itself at (say) 6 a.m. by registering an all red period for 2 seconds and then light up green for N-S traffic for (say) 40 seconds, then for E-W traffic for 30 seconds, and All Red (Pedestrian phase) for 20 seconds. The 40, 30, 20 cycle is repeated till (say) 9-00 a.m. when the control box automatically switches over to a different cycle—30, 20, 10—to cope with the morning peak hour traffic. It switches itself back to normal cycle at 11-00 a.m., changes to the shorter cycle for the evening peak and goes out finally at 10-00 p.m. If a flashing unit is added, the control box will leave

the Green lights 'ON' for the main road from 10-00 p.m. to 6-00 a.m., and the AMBER lights for the side roads will keep flashing to warn drivers that they are approaching a main road with Green signals 'ON'. Cycle changes could be fixed at any desired hour to suit local conditions. Cycle times could be varied from 2 to 84 seconds in multiples of 2. Green or Red lights could be permanently 'locked' for a pre-set period for special occasions like processions. For unpredictable traffic conditions, the automatic control could be switched off and the control box worked by manual operation.

*6. The vehicle actuated automatic signals :* This is an ideal method for traffic control work. The equipment consists of a detector, a controller and signals. The pressure operated detector is set flush with the surface of the road. This is used widely throughout the world. This equipment is not available in our country at present. But it will not be long before we begin to ask for this equipment. The method of operation of this equipment is the same as that of a fixed-time cycle automatic signal, except that the cycle times are changed by the detector from moment to moment, to suit the ever changing trends of traffic.

*(7) Helicopters and radio cars :* This and the next type of control are mentioned here purely for academical interest. We may not be bothered with such devices in our generation. The Paris police, so it is said, make extensive use of Helicopters during traffic peaks and warn radio cars waiting below to divert traffic miles away from points of congestion, and thus prevent traffic jams.

*(8) Television and automatic signals :* At least one American city has completely scrapped the conventional traffic police. Its traffic department now consists of Electricians, Technicians, Radio and T.V. Engineers. The traffic office is full of T.V. Screens, where every vehicle that goes through an intersection could be seen by a 'Traffic Officer' watching the screen. Mobile power units stand by outside the traffic

office ready to rush to intersections where power failures are reported.

### The right choice of control for an intersection

A study of the elementary theory of traffic movement shows that the total discharge capacity of a single lane of traffic reaches its peak when the traffic flow reaches 15 m.p.h. At higher speeds, the greater interval required between vehicles adversely affects the maximum capacity reached at 15 m.p.h. To reckon delay due to 'obstructions' take into consideration the time lost in decelerating, waiting and accelerating. To reckon discharge of traffic at an intersection, take into account 'flying starts'. When a line of parked vehicles is given the green light, the first vehicle will take the longest time to negotiate the intersections. Each succeeding vehicle will gradually reduce the time required to cross the intersection.

For a fixed-time cycle automatic signal, the cycle-time, i.e., the green interval in every phase should be determined after a very careful study. Long cycles (green interval 40 seconds, waiting vehicles go through in 30 seconds) cause unnecessary delay to other traffic, and short cycles are apt to cause overflows of traffic to succeeding cycles.

Amber timing should similarly be fixed after a careful study. Short intervals 2 to 4 seconds are the best. A long interval tempts drivers to crash through the lights.

Dual controls should be avoided. Where a traffic island is formed such signs like "Stop, Listen and Proceed" should be removed. When automatic signals are installed traffic islands should either be removed or trimmed down to the size of lane markers to suit the new control.

It should be remembered that traffic flow literally varies from instant to instant and the cycle-time determined by the averages obtained from traffic census could at best be only a compromise. Final corrections in cycle-time will have to be done on a trial-and-error basis.

*If costly errors are to be avoided, the right choice of control for an intersection, whether it be the formation of a traffic island or fixing of cycle-time or amber-time, could be arrived at only when the superior knowledge of the traffic engineer is fused with the rich experience of the traffic officer and tempered by trial-and-error methods.*

*It may not be out of place here to mention how a very costly error was made in a certain city in recent years. For some unknown reason it was decided to put up signal lights at one of the lovely traffic islands this city is famous for. The traffic island was left undisturbed (wisely, it proved later). When the lights went up, the dual control (the traffic island being a form of control by itself) threw traffic into confusion. Policemen brought to save the situation made things worse. Finally the signal lights were removed and traffic began to flow through smoothly once again. A clear case of lack of understanding and team work between traffic engineers and traffic police.*

### Traffic jams—their prevention

Prevention plans should by now be almost obvious. The first step is to check up on every single one of the several hundreds of intersections. A first class road map will be useful. But actual check up must be done on the site. Start with the main arteries and make sure every intersection has a proper type of control for it. During patrol work, stop at every intersection for a few minutes, at different times of the day. Look at every intersection as a likely traffic jam centre and a traffic diversion point. With this in mind patrol all the roads in the area. Note down streets suitable for diversion and strategic points to be manned when necessary.

Taxi and hackney drivers have an uncanny sense of traffic. They are seldom caught in a jam. Follow a taxi during peak hours. Watch how he avoids congestion centres. Any traffic officer could be proud of such knowledge.

By the time all the intersections are checked and all the streets patrolled over and over again, a pretty good idea of the general pattern of traffic at various hours of day and night will be formed. This knowledge is essential for a traffic officer. The kinds of traffic should also be observed and made a note of. When a diversion is ordered at a certain point, the traffic officer should know such details like,

- (a) Goods vehicles will follow route X to the northern exit from town.
- (b) Buses will come back to their scheduled route at point Y.
- (c) Cars will take to route Z for residential areas.

The next thing to do is to watch carefully for procession notices and other notices from various departments regarding closure of roads for repairs, etc. Note the date, time and place carefully. Order diversions at the right time. If radio cars or walkie-talkie sets are available make full use of them. To save man-power, men told off for procession duties should have cycles, so that the same man could be used at successive points.

#### Traffic jams—their cure

In spite of all the care, anticipation and preparation traffic jams do occur on rare occasions.

As soon as you are aware of a jam, act swiftly. Go to the centre of the trouble spot. Collect all your men around you. This is to prevent individuals making conflicting moves. The next thing to do is to seal off the trouble spot by preventing other vehicles coming into it unwittingly. Send out men with clear instructions to divert vehicles away from the jammed intersection. If V.H.F. sets or walkie-talkie sets are available on the spot, use them to the best advantage. For the traffic already jammed up, make up your mind quickly and act firmly. Once your mind is made up, do not change it. Do not lose your temper and shout. Keep cool. This is one time when you need all your wits about you. Make your orders crisp. Do not give them time to think. Keep them on the move. Above all do not allow yourself to be drawn into an argument with anyone. Swift, calm and decisive action will get you and everyone else out of the jam.

A farmer watering his fields, with his thorough knowledge of every nook and corner and all the ups and downs, does it with ease with only a few deft strokes here and there. Successful traffic control work is rather similar to it. If you have a very thorough knowledge, the rest is easy.

# CRIME CONTROL IN MADURAI CITY

BY

SRI D. K. M. ABDUL RAZACK

(*Sub-Inspector of Police, Control Room, Madurai*)

In spite of strict enforcement of the law by the police who enjoy some measure of confidence of the public since the advent of independence because of their "May I Help You" spirit, the problem of control of crime and maintenance of Law and Order is still very perplexing in a large city like Madurai.

This is more especially because of the huge influx of commercial people, tourists, pilgrims and others, affording ample facilities to the criminals to operate with impunity.

Criminals, for example, 'pick-pockets', pitch upon gullible victims at vantage points like the railway station, bus stand, cinema houses, places of worship and other crowded places and stealthily prey upon them. Burglars mostly choose to operate in houses where the inmates are absent, while robbers assemble at a lonely junction of highways occasionally and carry on their depredations.

Rowdies indulge in their 'pettifogging' trade in street corners. They hamper the public tranquillity by picking up a row with even the innocent, and off and on stabbing outrages result. There are also certain types of anti-social elements who cheat and hook-wink the public.

The volume of work of the Regular Police has in recent times increased immensely. They have to attend to prevention and investigation of crime, prosecutions, petition enquiries, surveillance of bad characters, enforcement of prohibition, traffic problems and bandobust for fairs, festivals, visits and other gatherings, so much so that they find little time to concen-

trate their attention on bad elements menacing the society. What is the solution?

Diligence and promptitude in attending to such matters of importance during emergencies by a special body would really solve the problem to a certain extent. Towards achieving this a Police Control Room was opened in Madurai on 15th August 1960 (Independence Day), and it is functioning in full swing now.

It has a staff of one Inspector, two Sub-Inspectors and five Head Constables and a party of Armed Reserve whose primary duty is to patrol the city limits in mobile vans, round up the Law-breakers, if any, and hand them over at the police station having jurisdiction for further action. Two sections of the Malabar Special Police are always kept in waiting at the detachment camp adjacent to the Control Room to be rushed to the trouble-spots if needed during emergencies.

Madurai city is divided into three divisions, A, B and C for Law and Order and crime control. Places South and East of Meenakshi temple constitute A division, places North and West of the temple up to the Vaigai river constitute B division and places North of the Vaigai river constitute C division. Each division is patrolled led by a mobile van in the charge of a Sub-Inspector or Head Constable with a party of Armed Reserve men who work in three shifts of eight hours duration each. There is a wireless set at the Control Room to which are linked the wireless sets in the three mobile vans and another in the traffic van.

The telephone number of the Control Room is No. 9. Whenever a message regarding

any trouble or disturbance is received in the Control Room it is at once transmitted to the concerned mobile van by wireless who in turn rush to the spot and take timely action against the miscreants. Experimentally, at present the mobile vans are able to reach the trouble spots in about 5 minutes but in course of time with better facilities and practice we hope to reduce the timing to 3 minutes. Important strategic points and vulnerable points have been listed out and the mobiles cover these points regularly during their patrol. They move like sentinels in perfect vigil and the rowdy elements are scared away at the very sight of them. Normally, patrolling is done in the following hours daily : 09-00 to 13-00 ; 15-30 to 19-30 ; 21-00 to 05-00 hrs.

There is a mobile Patrol Indicator Map in the Control Room. Electric bulbs are fixed up in the map at all strategic points and will be flashed by the Control Room operator at the respective point after ascertaining the location of the mobile vans. Thus, by a glance at the map the Control Inspector can find out the correct location of the mobile party and direct them at once to trouble spots during emergencies. This system is very useful.

Phone No. 9 is greatly serving the needs of the public. People ring up No. 9 for any aid in emergency and at once the Control Room affords all possible help to them. Statistics of phone calls requiring the service of the Control Room since it was started on 15th August 1960 are furnished below :—

August (From 15th)	Septem- ber	Octo- ber	Novem- ber
15	23	53	80

The figures indicate the increasing awareness of the people to seek the help of the police in times of distress.

Recently, two parties armed with deadly weapons were about to come to a major clash

at Jaihindpuram over the issue of ploughing a land, but a nasty situation was averted by the timely intervention of the Control Room staff. A band of rowdies who stabbed an individual at Kosakulam Pudur and made good their escape were intercepted and caught by the mobile party patrolling that area. One Ratnakoravan of Attukulam who attempted to escape after committing a 'pocket-picking' offence at the city bus stop near Mangammal Choultry was caught red-handed. A number of gamblers and drunkards were also brought to book.

During the recent floods in Madurai the Control Room staff won the approbation of the public by their alertness. The Vaigai river was in spate and the mobiles were patrolling that area day and night, day-in and day-out, gave timely assistance to and safeguarded the lives and property of the people. Breaches in Madakulam, the biggest tank in the vicinity of Madurai and in Anupanadi tank were stopped by the timely action taken by the officers and men of the police force and the Control Room staff were the fore-arms of these operations and a major catastrophe was thus averted. Flood-stricken people were provided with shelters and feeding arrangements were made for them.

The Control Room often renders humanitarian service in that it attends to mercy calls from the really suffering, helpless people urgently needing medical aid by taking them to the hospital.

The Control Room is also a centre of information where one can have news regarding crimes and criminals, men and affairs and other important happenings like floods, rain warnings, etc. With more facilities, more practice, and more popularisation of the availability of such facilities the Madurai Police Control Room will become a real and useful nerve-centre of the city.

# FINGER-PRINTS ARE A SURE AID TO DETECTION

BY

SRI V. B. VENUGOPAL, B.A.

(Deputy Superintendent of Police, Tanjore)

It has been firmly established that finger-prints are an infallible aid to the detection of crimes, as the finger-prints of no two persons in the world are identical. Finger-prints found at the scene of crime can be easily proved to a particular individual's on the above basis.

The value of a careful scrutiny of the scene of occurrence for possible clues such as finger-prints and an intelligent, systematic and diligent study of the Station Crime History cannot be overemphasised in detective work. Though people say that detection depends upon chance and luck like a game of cricket, yet if one were to bestow careful attention to the spotting of finger-prints at the scene of occurrence, one could be sure of detecting a crime. The following case will clearly prove the truth of this statement.

On a dark night on the 14th April, 1960, Varahur village in Thirukattupalli Police Station limits, Thanjavur District was the scene of a grave burglary.

One Subramania Iyer lives in an old but nevertheless strongly-built, one-storeyed house in the middle of the Agraharam at Varahur. He is a fairly rich man and was arranging for the marriage of his daughter in his house. A few of his relations had already arrived and they were attending to the preliminaries of the marriage. He used to bolt all the doors including the door of the vacant portion upstairs before he retired for bed each day. But unfortunately, and probably due to the stress and strain of the marriage arrangements, he

forgot to bolt the door of the staircase from within on the fateful night of 14th April 1960

As luck always favours the culprits in the initial stages of their nefarious act, this omission on the part of the house owner proved useful for the culprits who burgled his house that very night. The culprits had evidently reconnoitred the locality in advance as they pitched upon this only easy mode of entry into the house. They apparently scaled over the wall of an adjoining house and jumped over to the open terrace. Jewels and clothes valued Rs. 2,138 which were all kept in trunks in the store room were stolen by them. The culprits carried away five trunks containing these valuables, rifled them of their contents and abandoned the boxes in the nearby fields.

Early the next morning, the servant woman of the house discovered the havoc caused by the culprits. She immediately raised an alarm and the house owner came and found to his dismay the enormous loss just on the eve of the marriage in his house. He was one of those who had attended the Village Vigilance Committee meeting addressed by all officers including the Superintendent of Police, and the Deputy Superintendent of Police, Thanjavur in the recent past and he remembered their advice to ensure that no one touched the articles ransacked by the culprits. He then made his usual report to the Village Headman who sent his yadast.

The Sub-Inspector of Police, Thirukattupalli, registered this case in Cr. No. 82/60

Sections 457 and 380 Indian Penal Code and immediately phoned to me about the occurrence. I immediately despatched H.C. 629 Vittal Rao, the finger-print H.C. to the scene of occurrence with instructions to scrutinize the articles carefully for finger-prints. This H.C. was patient enough to examine all the articles carefully and found latent finger-prints on eight articles such as mirror, a plastic box, its lid, etc. These articles were carefully packed and sent to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore. The Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, found 12 finger-prints on five of these articles. The F.P.B.S. Nos. of all M.O. Criminals of the locality were sent to the Finger-Print Bureau, Vellore, for comparison. The Finger-Print Bureau found that the finger-prints of one among the list tallied with the finger-prints found on the articles sent to them and that the finger-prints belonged to one Periasamy Kalady of Pothagiri.

This information was received with great joy and the local police traced Periaswamy Kalady and after careful and tactful questioning, Periasamy Kalady broke down and revealed the names of his seven associates who took part along with him in this burglary. All the seven associates were traced and properties lost in this case valued over Rs. 1,766 were recovered. Five members of the gang were charged and all of them were convicted to various terms of imprisonments ranging from 3 months to 2 years R.I.

Thus it was that finger-print evidence that led to the detection of this grave burglary which would have otherwise been referred as undetected. If only the Investigating Officers take pains to scrutinize the scene of occurrence for finger-prints and make systematic and proper use of the station crime history, we can prove in every case that detection is not "a chance" but something depending upon careful, hard work.

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# THE INTERROGATION OF SUSPECTS

BY

SRI K. KUMARASWAMY

(*Deputy Superintendent of Police*)

The interrogation of a suspect or accused is only one aspect of investigation. The complete investigation of a case may be broadly divided under the following heads :—

- (1) Collection of all relevant and available materials and gathering and sifting of evidence.
- (2) Proper recording of the case on correct legal lines and writing of case diaries.
- (3) Prosecution and Court work.

2. The above can in turn be divided into various subjects in a chronological order commencing from the recording of the complaint in the case, recording of the First Information Report, examination of witnesses, inspection of scene of offence, prompt dissemination of information, location of the accused by a process of elimination by the study of crime history and other records, arrest of the accused, interrogation of the accused, recovery of properties etc.

3. It does not help any one and the Investigating Officer in the least if one does not make a correct and proper record of all the work done in the investigation then and there by writing up the case diary. This is the main record of investigation on which depends the success or failure of the case.

4. Last but not the least is the task of the presentation of the whole case and the conduct of the prosecution in the Court.

5. Each one aspect is important in its own way and needs very careful and thorough attention at all times and in all stages. In spite of all difficulties and handicaps one has

to race with the time, for any little delay may perhaps seal the fate of the case. Prompt and quick action always pays high dividends. More than all, it is the thoroughness in every thing connected with investigation that singles you out from the rest for any success or reward or recognition.

6. Thus, it is seen that the interrogation of an accused is only one link in the long chain of investigation. It is the most difficult of all tasks for an Investigating Officer. For a willing and intelligent officer, it is perhaps the most interesting and fruitful part of the whole investigation.

7. The method of interrogation may have to vary to suit the different cases and the varying types of criminals. One cannot follow or adopt any rule of thumb or text book method nor is it possible to prescribe a clear cut system good for all cases and for all times. However, a few hints can be suggested for a general guidance and by no means can they be said to be complete or exhaustive.

8. The one and the only aim of interrogation for an investigating officer should be to get at the truth. Conviction in a Court of Law is only secondary and must not at all be the only goal towards which one should set his mind. If one starts with that aim before him, he would unconsciously and unknowingly begin to identify himself with the case and the parties and thus would get lost for ever, and never get anywhere near the truth. In that event it would be difficult for him to keep an open and unbiased mind, factors which are most important for a true Investigating Officer.

9. The accused concerned in different cases may have to be necessarily questioned from different aspects and angles. The aim of examining an accused in a murder case is different from that of the examination of one concerned in a property offence or fraud or forgery or other offences.

#### Nature of cases

10. Ordinarily, the accused in murder cases are not very difficult to handle. They are more repentant than many others except in a few wanton, premeditated murders in which they would feel no burden of their guilt. On the other hand they would feel as if a load is taken off their minds and have a great satisfaction at their achievement. This may be so in political murders or murders for revenge. In all other cases, the accused would be repentant but would start off with a total denial of everything for the fear of the fatal rope once their guilt is known or detected. A common man will have no pity or compassion for one accused of murder. But as an Officer of the Law, it is better that you treat him gently and sympathetically. He deserves more to be pitied than detested. This works greatly on his disturbed mind and makes him look up to you for a kind look or gentle word. Give them in plenty to him. Befriend him and console him. Never give him false hopes or make false promises. He always responds to such a treatment and speaks out and speaks out the truth. That would give you the clues for a number of missing links in the long chain of evidence. But never be worried, when he goes back upon his statement as he is sure to do later. That is more in his last and desperate attempt to save himself. He may even impute motives and accuse you of inducement or even ill-treatment. Never bear him an ill-will on that score. Continue to treat him gently with pity and sympathy. Particularly in murder cases stick to the very strict truth even if its implications may go against the prosecution.

11. In property offences the aim of an interrogation will be to get at the stolen pro-

perties and also to know the other offences if any for which the same accused could have been responsible. It is here where you meet with the stiffest opposition. The accused are as a rule a trained and a tough lot. Further you invariably suffer under a handicap for you begin with nothing to guide you in your interrogation. All your intelligence, tact and experience will be put to test only while handling hardened criminals in property offences. Success does not come for the mere asking. Nothing but perseverance and patience pays. Initial failure should not discourage for there have been innumerable instances in which success had come after a long lapse of time.

12. The accused concerned in fraud or cheating cases are as a class men with intellect and could well play on the psychology of the victims. Of late some educated men have taken to this type of offences. They have therefore to be handled with care, for otherwise they would trick the Investigating Officer and turn the direction of investigation on completely wrong lines.

13. In cases of counterfeiting or forgery, the accused are all men who are well informed in the subject by study and experience. To question them the officer should himself study the subject well and have a good grasp of it. If unwittingly he betrays his lack of knowledge on any aspect, the accused, intelligent as they are, would take shelter under it and refuse to be drawn out.

#### Types of criminals

14. Juveniles and casual offenders readily respond to a severe method of interrogation. I don't by any means mean the use of the stick. I mean only a stiff and unsympathetic attitude and tone during interrogation. These criminals are in a frightened mood, being young and inexperienced. A sense of fear of what the police would do next generally makes them speak out the truth. Exceptions there are, of course, among them but even they break during a continuous and persistent interrogation.

15. It is the habituals and old offenders who prove more than a match to you at times. In spite of all the best efforts they make the officer realise his limitations and helplessness. Once you commit the mistake of using the rod against them the odds are against you for any progress or success. They can stand any amount of what are commonly known as the third degree methods but still look fresh and fit. They are the hardest to deal with. It is only tact, patience, perseverance and good treatment that may move them and make them come out with information.

16. Educated criminals are equally difficult. Talk to them nicely and treat them well. Cater to their needs and requirements including certain luxury habits. This goes home deep into their hearts and touch their good sense. They then become communicative to start with and then take pride to tell you of all they have done and round it off saying in a nonchalant way 'I have played my part, now let yours begin'.

17. Women criminals are rather difficult as is common with their sex in all other matters as well. Once you are hard and up against her : not in action, even in words : take it that she has won the battle. Once you raise your hand against her she gains the sympathy of all round you including yourself. A sense of fear that some harm may befall those near and dear to her would make her speak out the truth.

18. Politicals are a class by themselves. They often prove more than a match for an average officer. Conscious of their better intelligence and experience they may not even take your questioning seriously and care to reply. They are as a rule very well informed and well disciplined. They are wedded to their ideals and will stand by them. Few are the cases in which you will find them betraying their comrades or leak out information of their parties' plans and programmes. Blunt direct interrogation of politicals need never be undertaken for it will only prove

futile. The officer himself should be well informed of the party's ideals and programmes, know the details of their top-rankers and important party men and their views on current political topics. In the course of a long and friendly chat we must be able to pick up some interesting details regarding the future plan of action of their party and connect them with the information on hand and try to understand their programmes. They need special, tactful and intelligent treatment.

#### **Qualities of a good interrogator**

19. All able lawyers are not necessarily good at cross-examination. Only a gifted few are extraordinarily good at it: So it is that all investigating officers are not good at interrogation. One should have initiative, interest and zeal in investigation and should also possess a quick wit and flair for such interrogation. A good memory of men and matters and incidents will be an asset for an interrogator. By training and temperament one must try to be more a psychologist than a trying cross-examiner. More than anything else he must have asinine patience, and will-power not to be disheartened by failures, as there will be more failures than success in his work.

Dr. Hansgross has remarked :

"He who knows men, who is gifted with good memory, presence of mind, who takes pleasure in his work, zealously abandons himself to it, who keeps always scrupulously on the legal platform and who sees always in the accused a fallen brother or one wrongfully suspected, he will question well. But an officer who is wanting in a single one of these qualifications will never do any good."

The same author further adds that an officer if he wants to be an able and successful interrogator must be sincere, calm; free from passion or prejudice, courageous, cautious and above all humane. As a first step one should take

the trouble to study the accused, his antecedents and estimate his character, so that he could very well understand the man before him.

### Take it Easy method

20. Coming to the different methods of interrogation "Take it Easy" is a method that does little credit to any one, much less to an officer of the law engaged in investigation. You start half-heartedly with your heart and mind pre-occupied in other matters or your next engagement and with your eye on the clock. You question at random without a plan or precision and wait for your good luck to help you. If you succeed you are happy and if you don't, you move on to your next engagement with a casual remark, "He is a hard nut". Many officers who have no aptitude at all for investigation only adopt this method. A lucky few among them succeed for some time but many deservedly draw blank.

### Round the Clock method

21. This is perhaps the most trying for the accused and equally tiresome to the interrogator. The interrogation has no end and the accused is given no rest. He stands all the 24 hours and is questioned by a team of alert officers and men by turns. He is brought to a state of mental exhaustion more than even physical strain or tiresomeness. Added to it, he is usually so well fed, that he is strongly under the grip of sleep. In that state of mind he is unable to be sharp and alert in his answers and slips out a few bits of information here and there. He is then confronted with a volley of questions at the same pressure. He finds no way of escape and out of mere mental exhaustion and disgust speaks out. It is all easier said than done. It requires a number of well trained officers and men who work with a team spirit. More than that we must very well understand the subject of our interrogation and know how far he is speaking the truth and to what extent he can be believed. Then alone we can decide what to do next when at the dead end of an investigation. This could

\*be better understood if explained with a concrete illustration.

22. There was a case of theft in a festival crowd at the bathing ghat in a temple tank. Three sets of diamond ear-rings, nose screws and gold bangles, belonging to three ladies were kept in a small bundle on the steps of the tank. The bundle was removed when the lady who was keeping the watch had not her eyes on it for a few seconds. A juvenile was caught a little while later by the police on suspicion as it was a known M.O. of Golla-kuppam Donga Dasaries. The juvenile was indeed the pride of his tribe and a true son of his father, an old jail bird and notorious criminal. It took more than three days before the youngster came out with any information. As a result of his continuous interrogation a number of members of a gang of Golla-kuppam Donga Dasaries who were O.V. for several years were traced and arrested in the course of a week. Properties concerned in a few reported and unreported cases which occurred near the same tank were all recovered. But the properties, the value of which was over Rs. 7,000 in the case on hand could not be recovered. All the accused confessed to their complicity in their previous offences, and admitted their presence at the time and place of the offences in question, but denied all knowledge of the one offence in which the three ladies lost their properties. They however mentioned that another person of their tribe was also at the scene of the said offence working on his own or perhaps in company with others not connected with them. It might have therefore been justly taken that the accused themselves were really responsible for this offence also, but were trying to mislead the investigation on a wrong track by mentioning some other probable criminal. But the Investigating Officers were in a position to completely understand the real nature of the accused and the credibility of their statement. They were prepared to believe their information and pursue it. They did and ultimately succeeded in arresting the other criminal

and recovered the entire lot of properties lost by the three ladies nearly three weeks after the occurrence.

#### Indirect interrogation

23. It is almost like playing a confidence trick on the accused. He is continuously questioned without rest and then locked up where he finds a stranger, another criminal already inside the lock-up. The stranger is supplied with food and other requirements, which he would appear to share with the accused at the risk of being denied all these privileges if spotted by the men on guard duty. The stranger shows pity and is liberal in the supply of not only food but also certain other luxuries like tea, beedies, etc. In contrast to the hard and heartless interrogators, the accused finds a good friend in the stranger of his own class and trade. He begins to feel grateful to him. The stranger in a casual, cautious and apparently uninterested manner makes enquiries about his parentage, family and friends. He himself talks about his personal escapades, past history and also about the case in which he had then been caught. It is then hard for the accused to resist the temptation of showing to his new friend of what mettle he himself is and telling him of all his achievements. Notes are then exchanged as to who is the most friendly receiver and thus information about the disposal of properties are discussed. This goes on for a day or two, with futile, open interrogation by the officers going on in the interval. At the end the accused finds himself betrayed by the new found friend.

24. If this drama is played tactfully after careful thought and planning, it does succeed admirably. This has been tried in more than a few instances with hardened and desperate criminals and has resulted in good success. For this an intelligent and a faithful criminal should be secured to play his part well.

25. In an inter-provincial gang case of recent years known as the Baroda "Vaghiri" Gang Case investigated by the Madras City

Crime Branch, this indirect method of interrogation was tried for a second time with great success. It was a case where the Investigating Officer had to fight against the handicaps of language also. One young Vaghiri of Baroda was first arrested at Coimbatore and he successfully pretended for over a week that he was dumb. He was then brought to the Crime Branch, Madras City, for interrogation, where he fared no better for the first three or four days. A very bold step and a great risk had then to be taken as the Vaghiri and his associates were strongly suspected to be responsible for an outbreak of a series of window-bar burglaries in the City and other places in the State. An up-country criminal from Delhi who was then in Penitentiary as an under-trial in some cases of the City was brought out on bail and mixed with this Vaghiri youth in the lock-up. After four or five days of cautious and tactful conversation by the Delhi Criminal, the youngster came out with a history to his friend in confidence and told him all about his associates, their operations and activities in the City, Madura, Coimbatore, Ernakulam and Bangalore and also indicated the places where they had halted in these centres. He was then questioned continuously by a team of officers and when he knew that he had been betrayed by his new found friend he came out with information that threw a good deal of light on a number of unlocated burglaries in the City and other places in the State. This resulted in the rounding up of as many as 10 criminals from Bombay and distant villages of Baroda State and the recovery of properties in Grave H.B.s. nearly 18 months after the dates of the offences.

In this particular case we had the fullest co-operation of police officers in Baroda. But the methods adopted by them were different from the one that was employed by us. Within two hours after the matter was given up for lost at a joint conference of Madras and Baroda State Police Officers at Baroda, one of the hardest among them was found to make a clean breast of all their operations in Madras

State by the mere change in the mode of interrogation. A senior Superintendent of Police of the State who took a very keen interest from the very beginning genuinely felt the success of the method adopted by Madras Police officers, and said, "Hats off to you, the Madras Police. Your method is superb and it has worked like magic. If I had merely been told about this I could not have believed it."

The method adopted was simple. The criminal was treated very gently and with all humane consideration. He was denied nothing that he desired to get. Baroda was not dry then and a gift of a bottle or two of high class drinks given to him unasked brought about the miraculous change in his attitude and made him speak out the whole truth.

#### \*Rule of the rod

26. Many in the public may not agree or believe when it is said that this is almost an obsolete method and does not find favour with men of experience or superior officers. The police have been for a long time proverbially associated with the use of this method and many young and inexperienced officers may still use it. Little do they know that it can never succeed with habitual criminals or professionals. Further they open themselves to great personal risks, for in a careless use of the rod anything untoward might happen. Your own officers would not consider your good intentions but only take you to task for your carelessness and indiscretion. Let this system be buried deep and with it the bad name and the odium of the police and let every one do his best to see that the system is never revived again.

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# MADURAI DISTRICT POLICE SPORTS

BY

SRI D. K. M. ABDUL RAZACK

(*Sub-Inspector of Police, Control Room, Madurai*)

October 23rd 1960 was a memorable day in the annals of Police Sports in Madurai District. The annual sports of the Madurai District Police were held on that day at the newly opened Centenary Stadium in all grandeur.

The sports events commenced sharp at 4 p.m. under ideal weather conditions and the stadium was filled with distinguished invitees and spectators, ladies and gentlemen.

The huge attendance of the elite of the City was a clear indication of the change of attitude on the part of the public towards the police. The Police Officers received the gathering with the utmost civility.

The function was highlighted by the presence of the Chief Minister of Madras who declared open the Centenary Stadium and took the salute at a colourful march-past.

The sports went off very well. Competitors participated in the various items with disciplined punctuality in a sporting spirit and the track events, particularly the Relays, were very spectacular. There was considerable amusement when the musical chairs, the band race, the fancy-dress competition, the officers' handicap race and the gymkhana race were conducted.

The Inspector-General of Police, Madras, Sri S. Balakrishna Shetty presided and the Collector Sri S. Viswanathan declared open the new A.R. Colony Post Office. Sri M. Balakrishna Menon, the Deputy Inspector-

General of Police, Southern Range, Madurai and other high-ranking officials graced the occasion by their presence.

At the conclusion of the sports, the Superintendent of Police, Madurai Urban, Sri S. M. Diaz, welcomed the chief guests and the public and said that the Madurai District Police, particularly the Armed Reserve, had made marked strides and that the Government had been doing all that is possible for the common-weal of the police. He exhorted the public to continue to give their unstinted help to the police force in all their endeavours.

The District Collector, Sri S. Viswanathan, said that the Post Office at the A.R. Colony would serve a very useful purpose. The Inspector-General of Police, Sri Balakrishna Shetty said that the policeman's attitude had greatly changed in the past 3 years and that there was reciprocity of understanding between the police and the public. He further said that the police centenary celebrations spoke volumes about the public co-operation. He praised the Madurai District Police for their high sense of duty under the able guidance of the Superintendent of Police, Sri S. M. Diaz, and the Deputy Inspector-General of Police, Sri M. Balakrishna Menon.

The Chief Minister, Sri Kamaraj, said that he was particularly happy to attend the police sports because a "policeman now is a 'public servant' in the true sense of the word, more loved now than feared". In days gone by, the people clamoured for the abolition of police stations because policemen were the

symbol of oppression but with the advent of Independence the people wished to have police stations in every village because the police are really serving the public. He further said that he was glad to see the A.R. Colony neat and tidy and advised the constables' families to keep a cow each to augment their income.

Handsome prizes were distributed to the winners. A private individual received a sum of Rs. 1,500 in recognition of the services of his son who was stabbed to death while with commendable bravery and public spirit, he pursued and sought to apprehend a robber. The Village Headman of Melur received a wall-clock in recognition of his co-operation with the police in rounding up a gang of robbers and thieves.

Sri Chenthamarai, Superintendent of Police, Madurai North, proposed the vote of thanks.

The Madurai Armed Reserve Band was throughout in attendance and played sweet music. There was then an open-air 'buffet' dinner attended by the Chief Minister and the Inspector-General of Police. Dinner over, the audience was entertained to a drama, "NAMATHU THIRUPPANI," enacted by men of the Armed Reserve at the open-air theatre attached to the stadium, the theme of the drama being the victory of the soul force over brute-force through honest labour. The tempo of the acting was really outstanding and perhaps that brought rainfall as if to bid farewell to the audience.

The sports, the dinner and the drama at the Madurai Police Centenary Stadium were in my view reflections of the Olympic games, the Common Mess and the Amphitheatre of ancient Hellas. These were indeed unifying forces !

Police Constable Rangaswami Rengaraju of Tiruchirappalli District who was awarded the Prime Minister's Medal for Life Saving on the 6th November 1960 at Sitapur (Uttar Pradesh)



The river Cauvery was in full spate on 13th December 1959. Police Constable Rangaswami Rengaraju of Srirangam Police Station was on duty near the Ammamandapam ghat. At about 7 a.m. Mohammad Haneefa, one of a batch of four persons from Coimbatore District slipped into the river and was caught in a whirlpool. In spite of the alarm which was raised immediately no one dared to get into the water to rescue the drowning man. Constable Rengaraju rushed to the scene and losing little time in removing a portion of his uniform, jumped into the river and rescued Haneefa from deep water. First aid was rendered and his life was saved. But for the heroic and timely action of the constable, unmindful of the risk he was taking, Mohd. Haneefa would have certainly lost his life.

In appreciation of his devotion to duty and selfless courage Police Constable Rangaswamy Rengaraju is awarded the Prime Minister's Police Medal for Life Saving.

## **Crime Statement for the quarter ending 31-12-1960 in Madras State**

Serial No.	Name of District	Population		Total number of crimes	Offences relating to coins	Offences relating to bank notes and bank notes	Offences relating to bank notes and currency	Kidnapping	Dacoity and dacoity preparation and assembling of crowd	Robbery	House-breaking	Theft, ordinary and cattle assault	Total number of juries concerned	Police force for 10,000 population			
		(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)	(6)	(7)	(8)	(9)	(10)	(11)	(12)	(13)	(14)	(15)	(16)
1	Madras City	49.4	1,400,000	1,407	...	...	6	3	31	794	57	78	26	8	...	...	
2	Tiruchirappalli	5,571.13	2,695,071	1,197	...	...	7	16	3	229	533	8	7	8	...	...	
3	Tanjore	3,742.01	2,882,670	769	3	2	25	9	4	170	466	28	32	6	...	...	
4	Coimbatore	6,024	3,154,296	769	...	...	...	1	1	5	62	244	..	..	12	6	...
5	Chingleput	...	...	...	...	...	...	9	4	8	191	930	61	63	55	...	...
6	Madurai Urban	1,769.761	1,268,828	1,583	...	...	20	6	2	5	62	244	..	..	30	7	...
7	Madurai North	3,099.24	1,622,989	849	...	...	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	39	2	...
8	Ramanathapuram	5,919	2,309,938	665	2	25	9	3	2	1	4	194	386	2	39	...	8
9	Tirunelveli	4,337	2,445,967	824,000	829	..	1	1	6	..	..	..	..	..	39	...	...
10	Kanyakumari	646	824,000	942	...	...	...	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
11	North Arcot	4,654	2,865,235	942	...	...	16	6	1	4	194	386	2	39	...	...	13.1
12	Nilgiris	1,098.14	279,359	...	...	...	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6
13	Salem	6,894.8	3,097,220	1,646	...	...	..	3	2	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	...
14	South Arcot	4,208	2,790,651	304	...	...	..	19	8	2	290	703	85	29	29	...	...
15	Tiruchirappalli Rly. Dist.	2,451.5	...	...	...	...	..	1	1	..	2	230	12	10	...	...	...